SHONEN JUMP MANGA

vol. 20

NISEKOI

False Love

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

We made it to volume 20! This is *Shonen Jump*'s longest-running romantic comedy, thanks to your support! I am truly grateful! There's more still to come, so please stay with us. I'm still hanging in there!

Naoshi Komi

NAOSHI KOMI was born in Kochi Prefecture, Japan, on March 28, 1986. His first serialized work in *Weekly Shonen Jump* was the series *Double Arts*. His current series, *Nisekoi*, is serialized in *Weekly Shonen Jump*.

NISEKOI:
False Love
VOLUME 20
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

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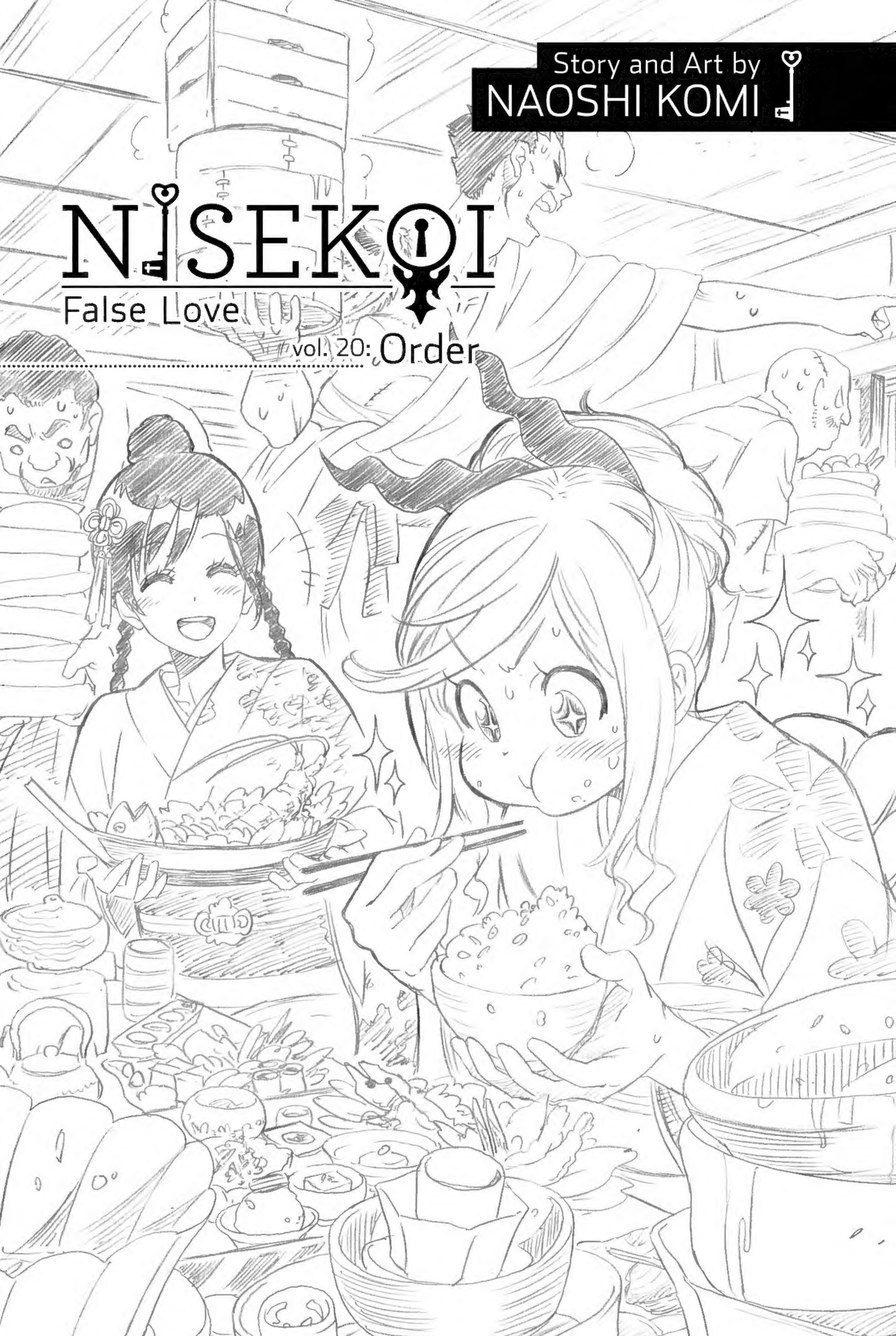
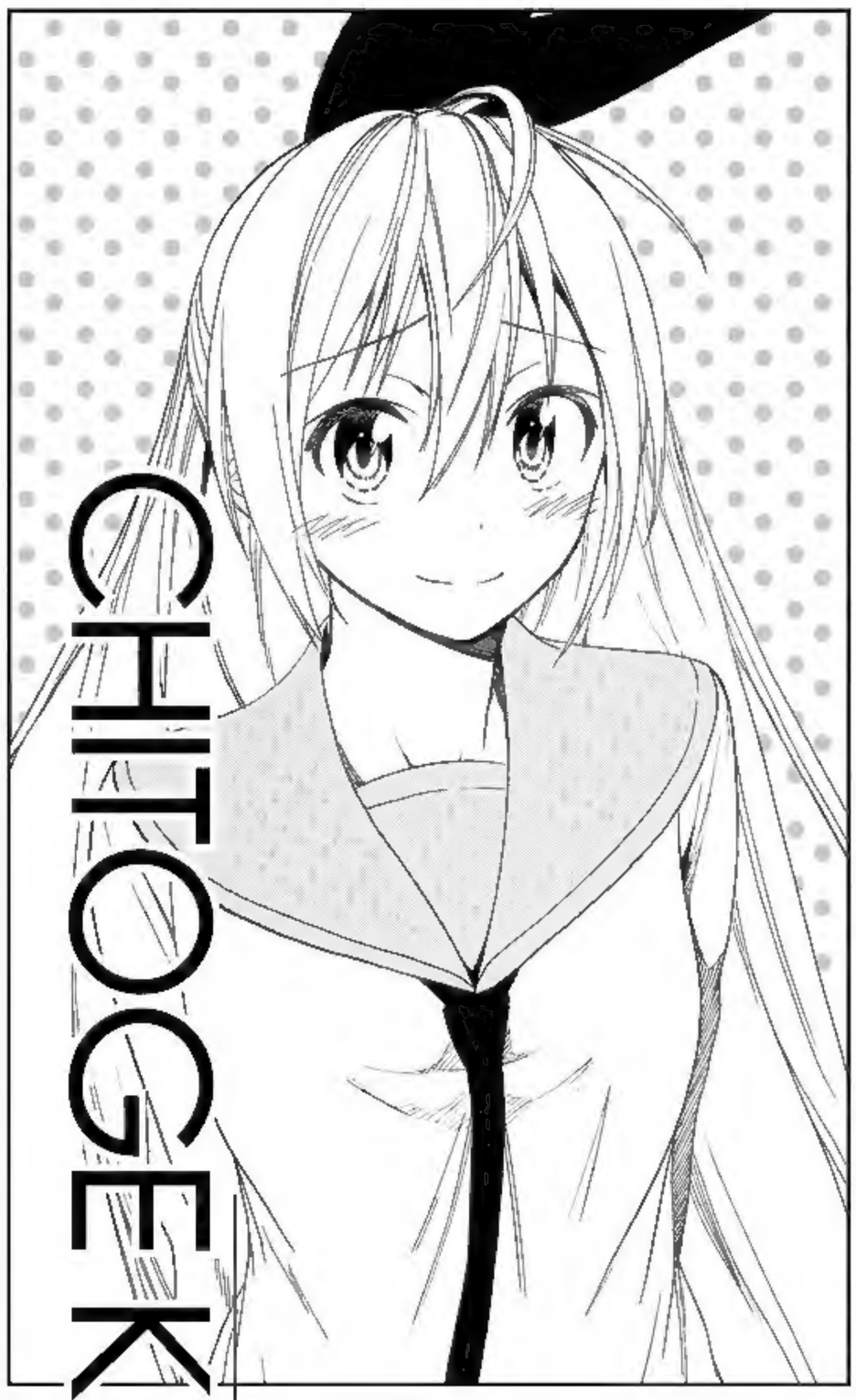
NISEKOI
False Love

vol. 20: Order



KOSAKI ONODERA

A girl Raku has a crush on. Beautiful and sweet, Kosaki has no shortage of admirers. She's a terrible cook but makes food that *looks* amazing.



CHITOGE KIRISAKI

A half-Japanese bombshell with stellar athletic abilities. Short-tempered and violent. Comes from a family of gangsters.

SHU MAIKO

Raku's best friend is outgoing and girl-crazy.

RAKU ICHIJO

A normal teen whose family happens to be yakuza. Cherishes a pendant given to him by a girl he met ten years ago.

RURI MIYAMOTO

Kosaki's best gal pal. Comes off as aloof, but is actually a devoted and highly intuitive friend.

YUI KANAKURA

A childhood friend of Raku's, Yui is the head of a Chinese mafia gang and the homeroom teacher of Raku's class at his school. She is currently staying at Raku's house and also has a special key linked to some kind of promise...

MARIKA TACHIBANA

Daughter of the chief of police, Marika is Raku's fiancée, according to an agreement made by their fathers—an agreement Marika takes very seriously! Also has a key and remembers making a promise with Raku ten years ago.

CHARACTERS & STORY

Ten years ago, Raku Ichijo made a promise with a girl he loved that they would get married when they met again...and he still treasures the pendant she gave him to seal their pledge.

Thanks to his family's circumstances, Raku has to pretend he's dating Chitoge Kirisaki, the daughter of a rival gangster. Despite their constant spats, Raku and Chitoge manage to fool everyone. Chitoge also has a token from her first love ten years ago—an old key. Meanwhile, Raku's crush, Kosaki, also has a key, as do Marika, the girl Raku's father has arranged for him to marry, and Yui, a childhood friend who's their homeroom teacher. On New Year's Eve, Marika takes action and abducts Raku so they can watch the first sunrise of the year together. But the two of them wind up stranded alone on a deserted island!

SEISHIRO TSUGUMI

Trained as an assassin in order to protect Chitoge, Tsugumi is often mistaken for a boy.

HARU ONODERA

Kosaki's adoring younger sister. Has a low opinion of Raku.

NISEKOI

False Love

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NISEKOI
False Love

KRAKLE

KRAKLE

HMM...

YOU'RE AWAKE?

WHERE ...?

KRAKLE

HUH?

KRAKLE

RAKU DEAREST...

KRAKLE

HOW LONG...

...WERE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?

KRAKLE

...IS THAT WHEN YOU ACT EXTRA CHIPPER, IT'S A WARNING SIGN.

ONE THING I'VE LEARNED RECENTLY...

I THOUGHT I COULD HIDE IT...

I GUESS I FAINTED...

OH, RIGHT...

I'M SORRY.

I SHOULD HAVE NOTICED.

...

SORT OF.

WITH MYSELF.

ARE YOU ANGRY?

I'M THE ONE WHO WASN'T BEING HONEST...

RAKU DEAR-EST...

YOU'RE SUCH A KIND PERSON.

HUH?

WHAT DID SHE MEAN...

...YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME?

MS. HONDA TOLD ME EARLIER TODAY.

SHE SAID...

...YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT...

IS IT...

...RELATED TO YOUR PHYSICAL CONDITION?

OH, RAKU DEAREST...

...YOU'RE SO SHARP TODAY!

DON'T KID AROUND.

I REALLY...

...DON'T LIKE TO HIDE THINGS FROM YOU.

BUT...

I'M NOT READY TO TELL YOU.

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS.

I'M SORRY, RAKU DEAREST.

...SORRY.

I'M REALLY...

SORRY FOR PRYING.

EVERYONE'S GOT A SECRET OR TWO THEY'D RATHER NOT SHARE.

I DON'T WANT TO MAKE YOU TALK ABOUT IT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

AH, FORGET IT. SORRY TO BE SUCH A DOWNER.

I WAS WORRIED, THAT'S ALL.

COURSE NOT.

YOU DON'T MIND?

SO...

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

THANK YOU...

...RAKU DEAREST.

THERE'S NOTHING TO THANK ME FOR.

W-WE'VE GOT TO GO SEE IT!!

O-OH NO!! THEN...THE FIRST SUNRISE OF THE YEAR IS SOON!

AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!

HUH?!

SEVEN OR EIGHT HOURS, I'D SAY.

WELL, YOU DID SLEEP QUITE A BIT.

REALLY ?!

Really?

I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A FEVER.

MUCH BETTER.

I-I CAN DO IT!! I FEEL MUCH BETTER!

THAT WAS THE WHOLE POINT OF COMING HERE!

YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION FOR THAT!

WE'D HAVE TO BUSHWHACK THROUGH THE JUNGLE TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND TO SEE THE SUN RISE!

THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT! YOU SHOULD JUST BE THINKING ABOUT YOUR BODY RIGHT NOW!

...?

WE DON'T WANT YOU PASSING OUT AGAIN...

NO WAY. YOU NEED TO REST.

BUT ...!!

ALL RIGHT... ON ONE CONDITION.

I'M SORRY FOR BEING DIFFICULT.

YOU'RE RIGHT, RAKU DEAREST.

I'M SORRY.

NOTH-ING...

R-REALLY...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO...

I DON'T NEED TO SEE THE SUNRISE THIS BADLY...

HUSH.

NO MORE ARGUING, OR I'LL REALLY GET MAD.

IT'S DARK, BUT I'M PRETTY SURE OF THE WAY.

IT'S NOT THAT BIG AN ISLAND.

IF I JUST KEEP WALKING, WE'LL MAKE IT IN TIME FOR THE SUNRISE.

THERE MUST BE A REASON...

IT'S NOT LIKE TACHIBANA TO GET UPSET.

WHY DOES SHE CARE SO MUCH ABOUT THE FIRST SUNRISE OF THE YEAR ANYWAY?

RAKU DEAREST ...

...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, RAKU DEAR-EST?

YES. I'M FINE.

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

HUH?

IT'S BECAUSE ...

...I LOVE YOU SO MUCH?

DO YOU KNOW WHY...

...YOU CAME ALONG TEN YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS BEING TREATED AT A CLINIC IN THE MOUNTAINS...

LIKE I SAID BEFORE...

...AND I FELL IN LOVE.

?!

...YOU'RE THE PERSON...

...WHO CHANGED ME.

WHENEVER IT WAS TOO HARD, I WOULD THINK OF YOUR SMILE, AND IT INSPIRED ME TO KEEP GOING.

I REALLY PUSHED MYSELF.

I STARTED WORKING ON MYSELF, STRIVING TO BECOME A WOMAN WORTHY OF YOUR AFFECTIONS.

AFTER WE SAID GOODBYE...

YOU MADE ME STRONG.

I WOULD'VE JUST GIVEN IN TO BEING WEAK AND DEPRESSED.

IF NOT FOR YOU, I WOULDN'T BE THE PERSON I AM NOW.

I WAS ABLE TO DO IT BECAUSE OF YOU, RAKU DEAREST.

...

...THE MORE NERVOUS I FELT ABOUT SEEING YOU AGAIN.

THE HARDER I STRIVED ...

WHAT IF IT WASN'T THE SAME ANYMORE?

HMM?

BUT... THE TRUTH IS I WAS A BIT SCARED.

BUT THEN, THAT DAY...

...DIDN'T EXIST ANYMORE.

MAYBE THE SWEET BOY I'D FALLEN FOR...

YOU MIGHT HAVE BECOME A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON.

TEN YEARS IS A LONG TIME, AFTER ALL.

...I SAW YOU, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TEN YEARS.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU ALL.

MY NAME IS MARIKA TACHIBANA.

JUST THE FACT THAT YOU WERE STILL YOU...

I WAS THRILLED. I WAS SO GLAD.

...I KNEW YOU HADN'T CHANGED. AT FIRST GLANCE ...

...MEANT SO MUCH TO ME.

... THAT'S WHY...I...

IT'S THANKS TO YOU THAT I'M ME.

ZZZZ

?

TACHI-BANA ...?

...SO STRAIGHT-FORWARD...

...ARE SO EARNEST...

TACHIBANA'S FEELINGS...

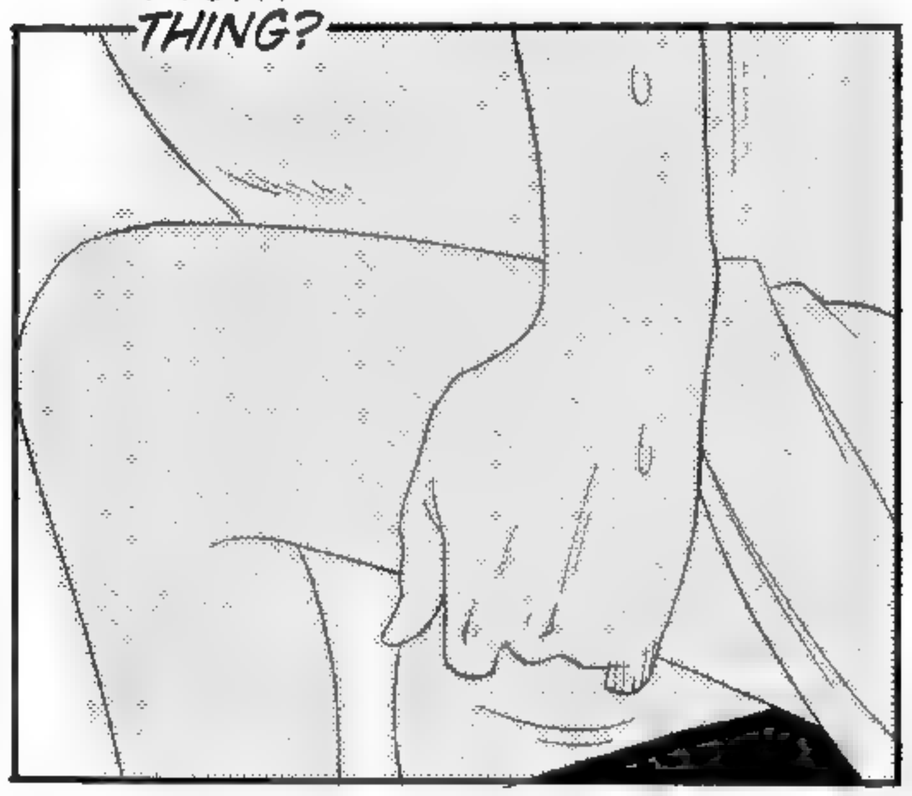
...SO PURE...

HOW SHOULD I RESPOND TO THAT?

SHP

AM I...

...DOING THE RIGHT THING?



WE'RE HERE.

NEVER MIND THAT. LOOK!

I MUST'VE... FALLEN ASLEEP...

RAKU DEAR-EST?

HUH?

HEY, TACHIBANA ...

TACHI-BANA...

MM...?

.....

SORRY, BUT I'VE GOTTA PUT YOU DOWN, TACHIBANA...

OH!! SORRY, RAKU DEAREST!

AAAAH!! I'M BEAT!!

You were carrying me the whole time!

THE FIRST SUN-RISE...

...OF THE YEAR.

AND WE'RE THE FIRST IN THE WORLD TO SEE IT.

OH...

I'M SO GLAD TO BE ABLE TO USHER IN ANOTHER NEW YEAR TOGETHER, THANKS TO YOU, RAKU DEAREST.

I'M REALLY GRATEFUL.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

IT WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE BEEN FUNNY IF WE'D MISSED IT.

ANYWAY, I'M GLAD WE MADE IT IN TIME.

I SUPPOSE ANYONE CAN...

YES...

I MEAN, EVEN THOUGH IT DOESN'T HAPPEN EVERY DAY...

I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU TOO, TACHI-BANA.

WELL, HEY, ANYONE CAN GREET THE NEW YEAR, RIGHT?

GLANCE

VWSHHH

FWHSHH

HUH?

IS THAT... WHAT I THINK IT IS...?

BRRMM

BRRMM

WELL, I DUNNO. I GUESS IT MAKES SENSE, SINCE WE WERE BUMMING AROUND ON A DESERTED ISLAND...

BACK IN JAPAN FINALLY, AND WE HAVE TO GO STRAIGHT TO THE HOSPITAL FOR BLOOD TESTS...

YEESH ...

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YOU WORRY TOO MUCH. I'M FINE.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE GETTING CHECKED OUT, SINCE YOU FAINTED AND ALL...

ANYWAY, I'M JUST GLAD WE MADE IT BACK SAFE.

RIGHT! ♡

SEE YOU IN A BIT, TACHI-BANA.

OKAY. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

RAKU ICHIJO... THIS WAY, PLEASE.

WHY DID YOU SAY THOSE THINGS TO RAKU DEAREST?

BECAUSE I FELT I SHOULD.

203

HONDA...

YES.

I APOLOGIZE IF I OVER-STEPPED.

BUT IF YOU CONTINUE THIS SORT OF RECKLESSNESS, THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MUCH LONGER YOU'LL LAST.

YOU KNOW THAT AS WELL AS I DO.

I PLAN TO SPEAK...

...WITH YOUR MOTHER ABOUT THIS ESCAPADE.

AS YOU WISH.

IT'S YOUR JOB, AFTER ALL.

Agh!! Don't think about it... Don't think about it..!!
Her body pressed against my back...
Wow... She's as light as a feather!!
Hff

Chapter 172: Prayers

THE DAY AFTER RETURNING FROM KIRIBATI...

...CHITOGE INVITED US TO GO ON THE FIRST SHRINE VISIT OF THE NEW YEAR.

SNIFFLE

WELL, COMPARED TO A TROPICAL ISLAND!

MM...

GEE, JAPAN SURE IS COLD.

TAKOYAKI

AH-CHOO!

CHITOGE ?

THANKS FOR WAITING...

OH, DAAAR-LING!!

SHE SHOULD BE.

IS CHITOGE HERE ALREADY?

OVER HERE!!

TA-DAA!

...NEW YEAR!!

HAPPY...

WH...

WH...

WHA...

GOOD MORNING, ICHIJO!

YOU'RE LATE, ICHIJO.

HEY, RAKU! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SIS REALLY WANTED ME TO COME– THAT'S ALL.

HA HA! SURPRISED YOU, DIDN'T WE?

EVEN HARU AND FU ARE HERE?

WHAT'RE YOU ALL DOING HERE?

FRIED CHICKEN

WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUN THAT WAY.

BUT WHY'S EVERYTHING ALWAYS A SURPRISE?

WELL, SURE...

I FIGURED THE MORE, THE MERRIER!

I INVITED THEM!

WELL, YOU SEE...

DIDN'T YOU ALL VISIT TOGETHER LAST YEAR?

KA SLUMP

WE WERE GOING TO, BUT THEN...

NOPE.

THEY DON'T NEED US TO WORK THIS YEAR?

FRIED CHICK TAKOYA

GEE, IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE WE WERE LAST HERE!

I'D RATHER NOT REMEMBER LAST YEAR'S EXPERIENCE ...

HOW COME MY HEAD HURTS WHEN I TRY TO REMEMBER...

HUH? SHRINE VISIT?

ZING ZING

?

What did we do last year?

HYAA-IIIEEE!!

OH... JUST KIDDING! I KNOW, I...

AND KIRISAKI... YOU LOOK ANGRY TOO!

H-HUH? WHAT'S WRONG, SEISHIRO?

?

?

Really!

NEVER MIND THEM. IT'S ALL RIGHT.

TAK TAK TAK

KA BASH WHAMMY

SHE WAS WORN OUT FROM HER TRIP, AND SHE DECIDED TO TAKE IT EASY.

MARIKA SAID SHE COULDN'T MAKE IT TODAY.

HEY, WHERE'S TACHI-BANA?

Apples

Crepes

FRIED

R-REALLY?

...

HUH?

...

WELL... HMM...

I figured she was just late...

NORMALLY I'D EXPECT HER TO COME RUNNING EVEN IF SHE HAD A FEVER...

THAT'S UNUSUAL.

I SHOULD STOP IN AND CHECK ON HER LATER...

GEE...THAT KINDA MAKES ME WORRY.

GBA

YAKI SOBA

WOW. ONODERA SURE IS CUTE.

?

SHE LOOKS AMAZING IN ANY OUTFIT!

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!

I WANT TO CHECK OUT THE BOOTHS!

DON'T RUN, PAULA!

SURE IS.

TEE HEE! IT SURE IS FUN TO ALL DO THIS TOGETHER!

GLANCE

THIS ONE

WITH THAT PRIESTESS WORKING HERE, YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY GET YOUR WISH. IN ANY CASE, YOU DEFINITELY DON'T WANT TO WISH FOR THE WRONG THING.

WE WERE ALL TALKING ABOUT IT EARLIER.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO ASK THE GODS FOR TODAY, RAKU?

WHAT?

OH...

Makes sense

HOT DOGS

CORN

HOT DOGS

HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO ASK FOR, ONODERA?

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA.

HEH HEH...

I'LL TELL YOU IF IT COMES TRUE.

OH, COME ON!! NOW I'M CURIOUS!

WELL ...

IT'S A SECRET.

?!

WHAAAT?!

I WAS JUST THINKING THAT IT'S NICE HOW THOSE TWO ARE GETTING ALONG!

ARE YOU SURE THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, HARU?

BLRF ?!

HUH?!

I-I'M NOT!

YOU SEEM A BIT PREOCCU-PIED...

SO...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO PRAY FOR, BLACK TIGER?

WELL, IF YOU SAY SO...

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? I DON'T HAVE A THING FOR ICHIJO...

FU...

BEER

YAKI-SOBA

TAKOYAKI

Did you hear what I said ?!

FU?!

MAYBE THIS IS YOUR CHANCE. YOU CAN ASK THE GODS TO BRING YOU TOGETHER!

NATURALLY, I'LL PRAY FOR MY MISTRESS'S SAFETY AND HAPPINESS...

WHAT ?!

WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID?!

OF COURSE, I'M NOT A CHILD, SO I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE IT.

THEY SAY WHAT YOU PRAY FOR HERE ACTUALLY HAPPENS.

THAT CAME OUT OF THE BLUE...

HM... YOU HAVE A POINT...

She has said that before...

DON'T YOU THINK THE MISTRESS WOULD WANT YOU TO?

THINK OF YOURSELF EVERY NOW AND THEN!

YOU JUST HAVE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

SET IT UP, AND THE REST WILL JUST FLOW...

That's what the celebrity, Big Sis Jessica says!

P-PAULAAA !!

THAT'S RIGHT. SO WISH FOR WHAT YOU REALLY WANT!

A KISS WITH YOU-KNOW-WHO!

K-K-K...!! PAULAAA ?!

NO PROBLEM, ICHIJO.

AREN'T YOU STILL IN MOURNING?

MIYAMOTO, I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU HERE.

HEY...

Not to be rude, but...

TAKOYAKI

大判焼

You can visit a shrine even during Kichu.

GEE, MIYAMOTO, YOU'RE SUCH AN EXPERT.

BUT THAT ALSO ONLY APPLIES TO THE DEATH OF A PARENT OR SIBLING. OTHERWISE, IT'S FINE.

MNCH

MNCH

IT'S A COMMON MISCON-CEPTION.

DURING *MOCHU*, THE YEAR FOLLOWING A LOVED ONE'S DEATH, IT'S STILL FINE TO VISIT A SHRINE FOR NEW YEAR'S. JUST NOT DURING *KICHU*, THE PERIOD OF 49 DAYS RIGHT AFTER THE DEATH.

HEY THERE, HOT STUFF!

WANNA GET A CUP OF TEA TOGETH-ER?

I CAN'T REALLY PICTURE YOU GETTING WILD AND CRAZY ANYWHERE, MIYAMOTO...

BUT THAT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE AT A SHRINE ANYWAY.

IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO GET WILD AND CRAZY AND REALLY PARTY DURING *MOCHU*...

EN

MANJU

HOT D

GOOD POINT.

YE-OWWW!!

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING YET...!

AAAUGH! WHAT WAS THAT FOR, RURI?!

KRUNCH

CREPES

WHAM

WHAK

icken

What gives?!

SEEMS LIKE SHE'S BEEN EXTRA HARSH WITH SHU LATELY...

THAT MIYA-MOTO ...

SHARK

JL

HUH?

WHERE'S CHITOGE?

WAIT A SEC...

...

SIIIGH...

...

KOSAKI...

...

EVERYONE WENT ON AHEAD...

GOT SOME-THING ON YOUR MIND?

...

IS SOMETHING WRONG, CHITOGE?

600¥

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

YEAH ...

IT'S HARD TO DECIDE WHEN THEY SAY IT MIGHT ACTUALLY COME TRUE...

DID YOU ALREADY DECIDE WHAT TO PRAY FOR?

HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH YOUR CRUSH THESE DAYS?

HEY, KOSAKI...

SO HOW'S IT GOING?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO...

NO...

IT'S OKAY, REALLY.

WHOA!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO FREAK YOU OUT...

CHITOGEEEE !!

W-WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

CH... CHITOGE!

...KIND OF GOOD LATELY.

!

ACTU-ALLY, THINGS HAVE BEEN ...

YOU AND RURI ARE THE ONLY ONES I CAN TALK TO ABOUT THIS.

...BUT... IT'S BEEN FUN LATELY...

NOTHING REALLY SPECIFIC HAPPENED...

WE HAD A CHANCE TO SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER ...

...AND I FEEL LIKE...WE'VE GOTTEN JUST A BIT CLOSER.

WOW!

OR RATHER, TO TELL THE GODS THAT I'M GOING TO DO IT!!

...FOR THE COURAGE TO TELL HIM HOW I FEEL THIS YEAR.

SO I'M PLANNING TO ASK THE GODS...

A CLOSE FRIEND?

THE GUY I LIKE TOLD ME I'M "A CLOSE FRIEND."

WOW... I'M JEALOUS!

OH, COME ON... I AM NOT!

Tee hee hee...

YOU'RE GLOWING, KOSAKI!!

AMAZING!! THAT'S SO COOL!!

MAYBE IT'LL NEVER GO ANYWHERE.

OH...

SIGH...

WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, HE NEVER REALLY TREATS ME LIKE A GIRL.

...IT MAKES ME WONDER IF HE EVEN SEES ME AS A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX.

I GUESS I'M GLAD, BUT...

YEAH. TO HIM I'M A CLOSE FRIEND.

IF NOTHING ELSE, YOU'RE CLEARLY VERY IMPORTANT TO HIM.

YOU'RE A CLOSE FRIEND...

PEOPLE RARELY SAY THAT TO EACH OTHER...EVEN TO SOMEONE OF THE SAME SEX.

BUT...

I DON'T THINK THAT'S BAD.

...

MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST PLAY UP YOUR GIRLINESS MORE.

AND IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT BEING SEEN AS A GIRL...

AT LEAST YOU KNOW HE LIKES YOU...

YES!

YOU THINK SO?

...!

KOSAKI ...!!

I'M SURE IT'LL WORK OUT!!

YOU'RE ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE GIRLS OUT THERE, CHITOGE!

MAYBE HE'S WAITING FOR YOU RIGHT NOW!

BUT THANK YOU!

OH... I DOUBT IT...

I DON'T KNOW ANY GIRLS AS AMAZING AS YOU EITHER!

I HOPE THINGS GO WELL FOR YOU TOO!

I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER!

THANK YOU!!

I'm glad we talked!

HEE HEE... GOOD!

LET'S GO!

TIME TO GO MAKE OUR WISHES!

HEY, YOU TWO!

COMING!!

JINGLE
JINGLE
JINGLE

I'LL MAKE HIM NOTICE ME!

I'VE GOT TO TRY HARDER!

THIS IS NO TIME TO WIMP OUT.

YES.

CLAP

CLAP

PLEASE GIVE ME THE COURAGE... PLEASE...

THIS YEAR, I'M GOING TO TELL HIM HOW I FEEL!

THAT WAY... HE'LL...

I WANT TO BE MORE PROACTIVE THIS YEAR!

AUGH!! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME...?!

NO!! I MEAN, THE MISTRESS'S SAFETY AND... A KISS...NO, NOT THAT!!! HER HAPPINESS... AND A KISS...

A KISS...

IF IT DOESN'T HAPPEN SOON, I...I...

PLEASE LET SIS AND ICHIJO BECOME A COUPLE...

BOOBS, PLEASE!!

I WANT BIGGER BOOBS!

MY BOOBS!

PLEASE BRING HAPPINESS TO RAKKY. AND TO NIGHT, AND CHITOGE, AND KOSAKI, AND MARIKA, AND TSUGUMI, AND MIYAMOTO, AND SHU, AND KURAHASHI, AND IKEDA, AND TANAKA, AND...

MAY HARU FIND HAPPINESS!

AND...

CUTE GIRLS TO RAIN DOWN FROM THE SKY...

BAM

PEACE AND WELL-BEING.

...LET IT BE A GOOD YEAR...

ONCE MORE...

RRRRUMMBL

GULP

IT'S OKAY... IT'S NON-ALCOHOLIC.

IT'S CALLED AMAZAKE.

Amazake

Amazake Shop

Come on up! It's free!

NICE! LET'S ALL HAVE SOME!

IT'S NON-ALCOHOLIC?

A HOT DRINK WOULD BE NICE...

GEE, IT REALLY IS COLD.

.....

THEY'RE GIVING THEM OUT OVER THERE FOR FREE.

HEY...

ME TOO!

I WANT TO GET A FORTUNE!

WELL, WE MADE OUR PRAYERS... LET'S WANDER AROUND!

WHERE DO THEY SELL THE GOOD LUCK CHARMS?

ME TOO.

I'M GOING TO THE BATHROOM.

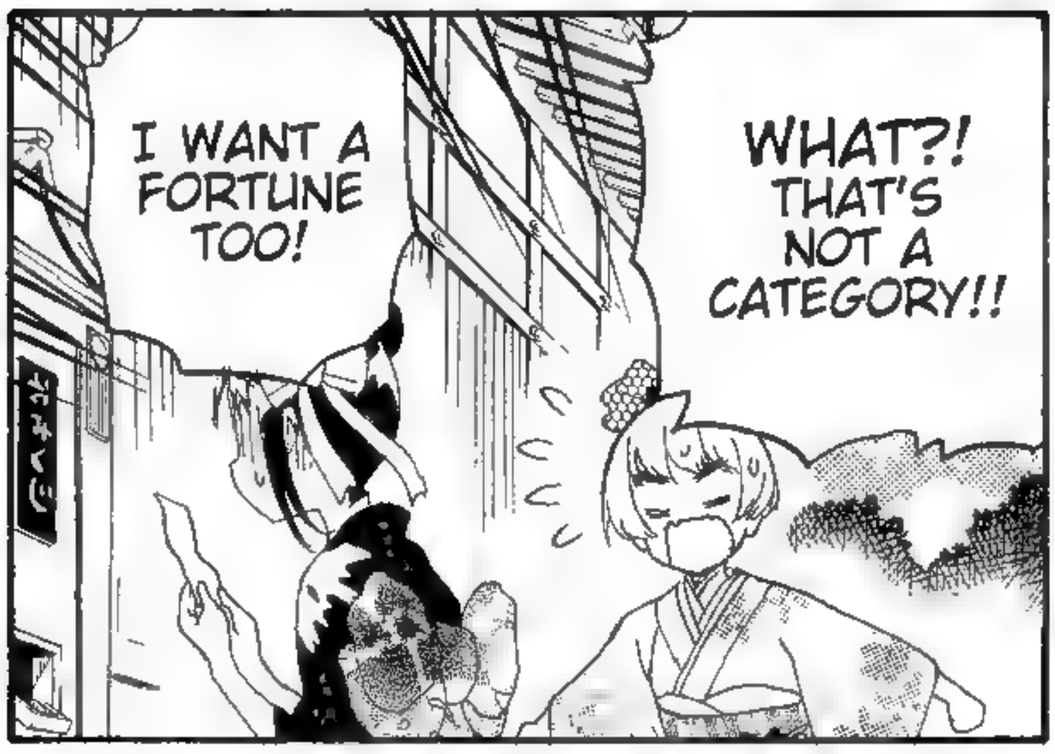
Hope this year is a bit more peaceful...

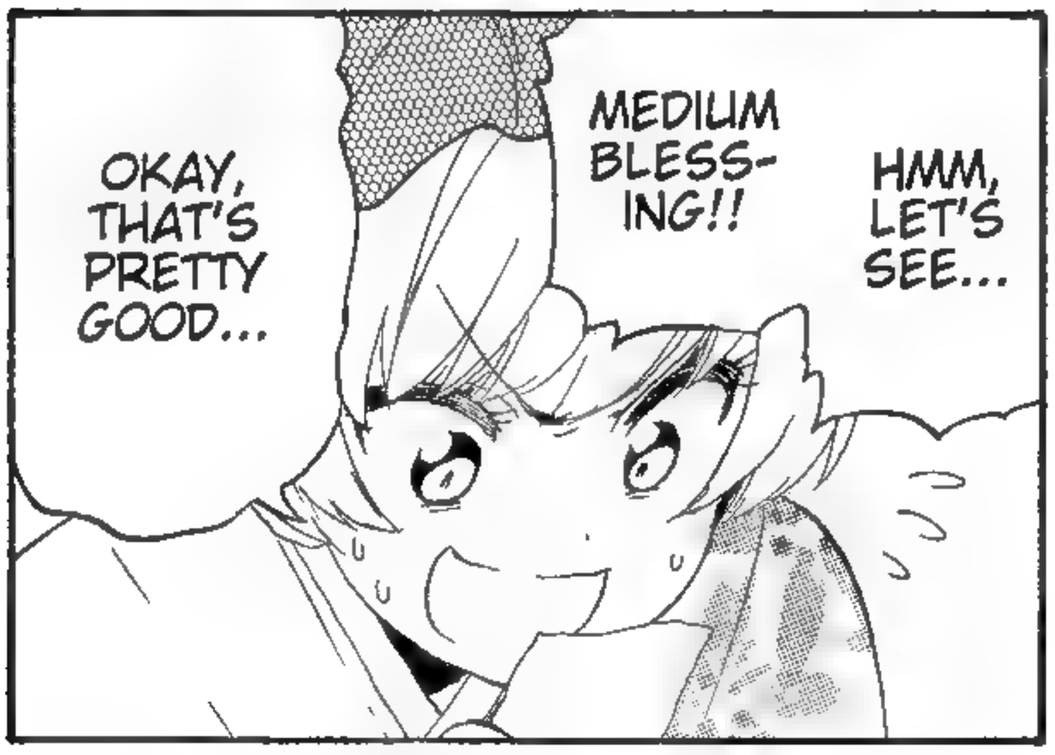
Yeesh...

Well... A lot of crazy stuff happened to me last year...

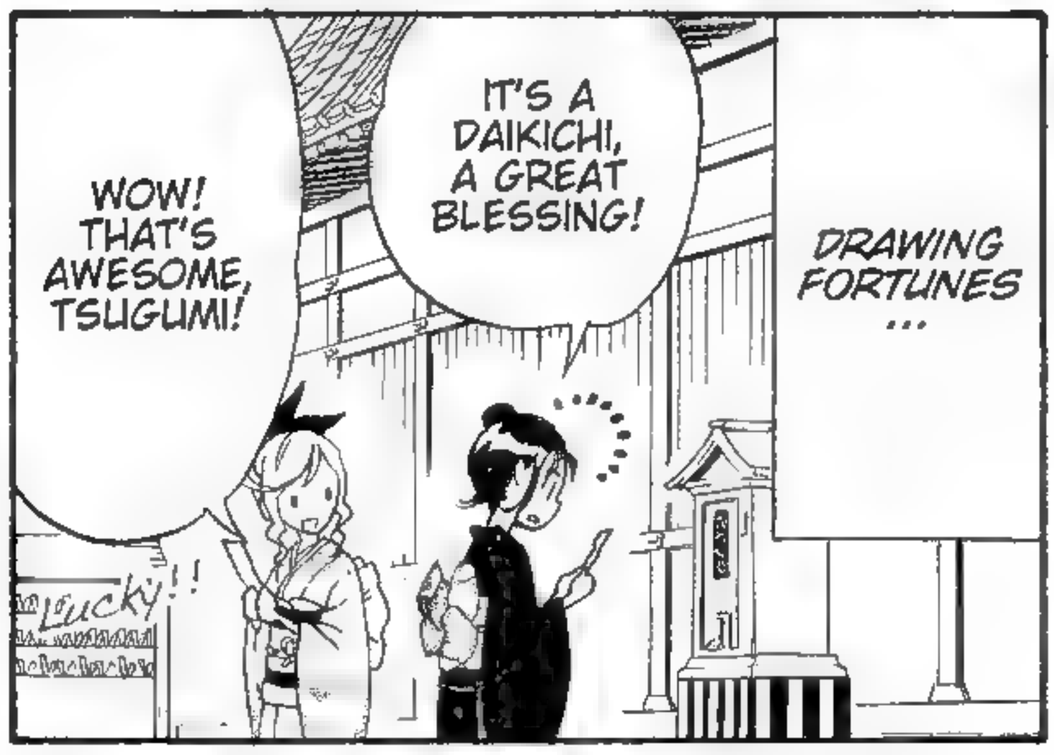
Chapter 173: Transformation

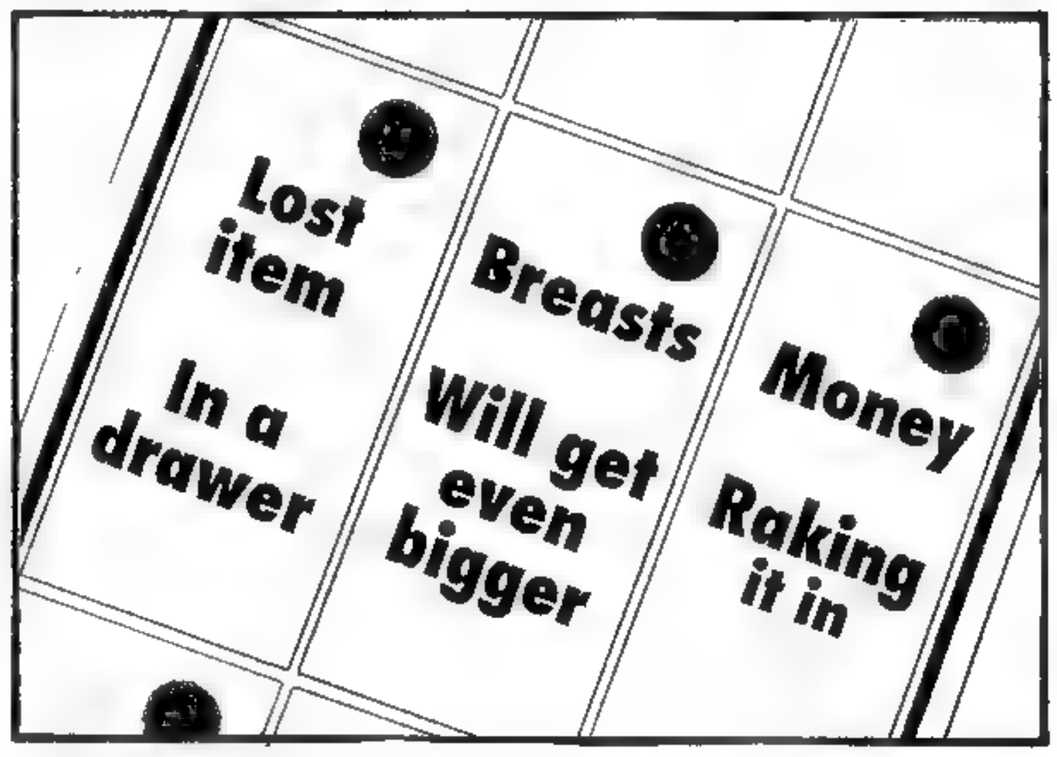
You're Kidding!





Way to Go!





THE PRIESTESS HERE WRITES THEM, RIGHT?

HOPE THEY AREN'T TOO CREEPY...

WELL...

WANT TO DRAW FORTUNES?

FWHOOOO

?

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU...

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?

WORMP

We told you, remember?

WE JUST WENT TO THE BATHROOM...

CHI-TOGE...

RAKU...

YEAH?

THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON...

W-WHAT'S WITH THE SPOOKY VIBE?

WHOOO

WHADDYA MEAN CLOSE FRIENDS, YOU MORON?!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT!!

HUH?!

WHAAAAT?!

WAAAIL

MORE IMPOR-TANTLY...

WORMP

H-HEY... WHAT'S UP, CHITOGE?

MORE IMPOR-TANTLY...

IS SOME-THING WRONG?

GASP!

I DON'T GET IT!!

Waaaah...

And why're you so wobbly?

CLOSE FRIENDS??

HEY, NOW... WHAT'S GOING ON?!

I THINK THIS IS THE CULPRIT.

RAKU...

HUH?

WHY DOES THIS RING A BELL...?

HEEHEEHEE

HEHHEHHEH

WAIT A SEC... THEY'RE ALL ACTING WEIRD...

FWAOOOO

SNIFF

SMELLS LIKE... AMAZAKE?

A PAPER CUP?

*AMAZAKE IS A TRADITIONAL, SWEET JAPANESE DRINK MADE FROM FERMENTED RICE.

DING

I FEEL LIKE I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING IMPORTANT...

HMM...

SAKE...?

AMAZAKE...

SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENED LAST YEAR!

ALL THE GIRLS I GOT DRUNK FROM WHISKEY BONBONS, AND IT WAS A DISASTER!!

NOW I REMEMBER!!

OH... OH!!

UNFOR-TUNATELY FOR YOU...

YOU REMEMBER NOW, DON'T YOU, RAKU?

SHU?!

BUT I GET THE SENSE IT WAS SUPER SCARY...

STRANGE... I CAN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER...

HOW DID IT ALL END?

I EXPERIENCED IT FIRSTHAND LAST YEAR!!

THE FEMALES ARE IN A VERY DANGEROUS STATE!!

LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE, RAKU!!

BUT...I CAN'T DO THAT!

SHOOP

FLEE, RAKU! I'LL DISTRACT THEM!!

ONODERA LOSES ALL CONTROL...

SHE STARTS TAKING OFF HER CLOTHES AND STUFF...

I'VE GOTTA PROTECT HER!!

BUT THIS TIME, YOUR VERY LIFE COULD WELL BE IN DANGER!!

Last time, you lost your memory!!

NORMALLY, WHATEVER THE GIRLS DO TO YOU, I CONSIDER YOU A LUCKY BASTARD. ♡

IS IT THAT BAD?!

WHA ...?!

OH...

HUH?

RAKU ICHI-JO...

ICHIJO...

RAKU ...

STARE

STARE

HUH?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, MAN?

SIGH...

WELL ...

WAIIIIT!! STOOOOOP!!

FREEZE, RAKU ICHIJO!

WAIT UP!!

TAK TAK

TAK TAK

WHAAAAT?!

WHY ARE THEY ALL COMING AFTER ME?!

HUFF ...

HUFF ...

HEEELP! WAAAIT! TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

SHEESH ...

HE'S A GOOD GUY, BUT HE NEVER LEARNS.

LURCH LURCH

MAYBE MOVE SOME-WHERE LESS POPU-LATED...

I JUST HAVE TO EVADE THEM UNTIL THEY SOBER UP...

AT LEAST NOBODY ELSE IS IN DANGER...

YIKES! HOW COME I'M THE TARGET?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

W-WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

O-O-ONO-DERA?!

COME OVER HERE. LET'S TALK!!

COME ON, WEAR IT PROPERLY!

HEY... YOUR KIMONO'S FALLING OFF!

Pull yourself together!!

BUT IT'S TOO HOT!!

AIEEE!!

GOTCHAAA!!

SKWEEZ

HUH?

WHO'S THAT OVER THERE?

YOU CAN'T JUST...

SOMEONE MIGHT SEE YOU!

ICHIJO ?

IT'S YOUR SISTER...

OH!! HARU!!

THANK GOODNESS... GIVE ME A HAND, WILL YOU?

HUH?

ER...

SWOOM

YEAH ...

HARU... NOT YOU TOO?

TH-THERE YOU ARE, ICHIJO...

WORMP

WORMP

HUH?!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

ICHIJO ...

!!

GLOMP

GO ON...

HERE, FEEL FOR YOURSELF ...

FWHSH

NOT AS HOT AS SIS, BUT STILL...

SKWEEZ

YOU KNOW... I HAVE A PRETTY AWESOME BOD UNDER THESE CLOTHES...

RUB

RUB

Ooh!

RUB

HARU, QUIT HOGGING HIM!

LET ME TOUCH HIM!!

STOP!! HEY!! I SAID STOP!!

AAAAAAH!

HARU, NOT YOU TOO!!

HOLD ME!!

HM?

RAKKY?

JOLT

I'LL JUST HAVE TO AVOID THEM...

IT'S NO USE!! THEY'RE BEYOND REASON!!

R-RUN FOR IT!!

SHOOP

OH!

IT *IS* YOU, RAKKY!

OH ♡

OH NO!!

I WAS HOPING YOU'D BE OKAY AT LEAST...

YOU WERE MY LAST HOPE...

COME OVER HERE A MINUTE! ♡

GOOD TIMING!!

YUI? YOU TOO?

THERE'S THE WRAPPER AND THE FILLING...

LOOK... LIFE IS LIKE A POTSTICKER...

THAT'S HOW LIFE IS!

LISTEN UP, RAKKY!

YELP!!

WHAAT?!

NO, I DON'T!

GET IT?

RRRRRRRR

RAKU ICHIJO ...

ISN'T ANYONE ON MY SIDE?

WHY IS IT ALWAYS ME?!

HEY!! WHY ARE YOU RUNNING, RAKU ICHIJO?!

ZOOM ZOOM

YOU LOOK LIKE A MURDER-ER!!

YOU'D RUN TOO!

YOUR LIPS LOOK SOFT...

ACK!! THE SCARIEST ONE OF ALL!!

AND HARU'S FRIEND FU...

PAULA?!

WHO'S THAT?

HUH?!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

OH. IT'S YOU.

HMM?

OH NO!! THEY'VE GOT ME SURROUNDED!!

SKREE

YOU'RE...
OKAY?

YOU'RE
...

HUH
?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

EVERYONE
DRANK THAT
AMAZAKE
STUFF AND
TOOK OFF.

It's
kinda
gross.

AND WHAT'S
GOING ON,
ANYWAY?

SAVE
IT FOR
BLACK
TIGER!!

AUGH!!
WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING,
YOU
PERV?!

I was all
alone!

ANOTHER
SURVIVOR!!

THANK
GOD!!

EEEEEEEEK!!

KA

SHUP

PAULAAAAA!!

ZOOM

HEY!
...

CALM
HER
DOWN,
WILL
YOU?

HEY...PAULA,
YOU GOTTA
HELP ME!! I
CAN'T HANDLE
HER!!

HUH?!

WHAT'S
YOUR
DEAL?!

GA

WAAAIT!!

SP!

TAK TAK TAK

KA

SWOOSH

PAULA...

HUH?

I DON'T GET IT...

WHAT'S WITH HIM?

HUH?

YOUR LIPS LOOK SO SOFT...

...

PAULA...

HRF?! B-B-BLACK TIGER?!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING...?

MWAAAA!

KHHRR

KHH

RR

HUH? WAIT, WHAT?!

WHAT'RE YOU... ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

WAIT... WHAT'RE YOU DOING... STOP!!

AIEEE!

I'M CONFUSED...

W-WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, BLACK TIGER?

KHHRRRR

JOLT

FOUND YOU, DARLING!

...SAFE HERE...

SHOULD BE...

HUFF ...

HUFF ...

YOU'RE A LITTLE DRUNK... YOU AREN'T YOURSELF ...

W-W-W-WAIT, CHITOGE- CALM DOWN!!

LET'S JUST... TALK THIS OVER...

YOU WON'T GET AWAY!!

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME!

AAAUGH!

KHRRRR

RAKKY! WE DIDN'T FINISH OUR TALK!

NOT YOU TOO, YUI!

ICHIJO!

WHY, ICHIJO!

♡

THERE YOU ARE!!

And Haru!!

O...ONO-DERA?!

EEEEEK!!

ZIP IT!

KAH-RAZY?!

DON'T YOU WANNA GET A LITTLE KAH-RAZY?

BUT... I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU...

W-WAIT!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

HEEEELP!!

H...

PLEASE... COME ON, LADIES...

W-WAIT... PLEASE... STOP!!

PLEASE... LET ME GO...

KA-

WHUMP!

KAW

KAW

HUH?!

...

SHOOP...

WHERE AM I?

HUH?

BLINK

WHAT HAPPENED ...?

HEY... HOW DID WE ALL GET HERE?

RAKU!

JOLT

OH!

I REMEMBER WE ALL DRANK AMAZAKE ...

WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

HUH?

...

ER... NOTHING!

N-NOTHING SPECIAL AT ALL!!

SH-SH-SHUDDER

I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING...

...

...HAPPENED AGAIN?

DON'T TELL ME...WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR...

KAW

KAW

IT'S SCARY NOT REMEMBERING!

What happened?

((MEANWHILE, SHU'S EXPERIENCE))

Enduring a megalecture by Ruri

It's been three hours...

Er...

YAP

YAP

YAP

YAP

YAP

YAP

Yui

Hey, where are we?

Haru

Sis?

NOTE TO SELF: DON'T EVER LET THEM DRINK AGAIN...

So... Why do I feel like this?
Yes... That's all...
...pajamas... Touching pajamas...
It was just...
SNIFFLE

Chapter 174: There Is Someone

1 JANUARY

2015

6 7 8 9

13 14 15 16

THIS YEAR IS GOING TO BE DIFFERENT!

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...

OUR OFFICIAL FIRST DATE OF THE YEAR!

GOCCI

GOOD MORNING, DARLING!

OH!

GOOD MORNING, HONEY!

YEAH.

GOTTA MAKE THE BEST OF OUR LAST DAY OF WINTER BREAK.

IT'S A BUMMER SCHOOL STARTS AGAIN TOMORROW.

AHEM AHEM!

ACTUALLY... I HAVE A PROPOSAL...

SO...WHERE SHOULD WE GO TODAY?

JUST SIT BACK AND ENJOY!

HA HA! WELL, YOU CAN LET ME WORRY ABOUT EVERYTHING TODAY!

THAT'S UN-USUAL.

USUALLY YOU LEAVE IT ALL TO ME...

NOW YOU'RE MAKING ME NERVOUS...

REALLY?!

I HAVE A PLAN FOR THE WHOLE DAY!

LOST STAND

CUTE CHUNKY

Harry Potter

CINEMA

ALL RIGHT! FOR STARTERS ...

IS THERE A GOOD ACTION FILM PLAYING?

WHAT ARE WE SEEING?

OH!

HMM... LET'S SEE...

THAT'S PAR FOR THE COURSE...

LOST STAND

CHATTER CHATTER

SO, WE'RE STARTING WITH A MOVIE.

GLANCE GLANCE

BUT I THOUGHT YOU HATED ANIMAL MOVIES...

NO...I HAVEN'T...

OH... HAVE YOU ALREADY SEEN IT?

SHUT UP. I FEEL LIKE SEEING THIS TODAY.

LET'S SEE THIS ONE!

REALLY?! MEOWSER ?!

MEOWSER
Operation Las Vegas

AND THAT IS...

I HAVE AN IMPORTANT GOAL TODAY.

YEP.

COME ON.

LET'S GO.

...TO ENJOY THIS DATE.

I WANT RAKU...

I WANT HIM TO NOTICE MY GOOD SIDE!

I'M TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF THIS YEAR!

I USUALLY HAVE HIM COME UP WITH STUFF I LIKE.

BUT I WANT TO LET HIM HAVE FUN FOR ONCE.

I WANT TO SHOW HIM I CAN BE FUN!

SO THAT HE WON'T JUST SEE ME AS A "CLOSE FRIEND."

GOTTA MAKE SURE TO WATCH THE WHOLE THING SO WE CAN DISCUSS IT AFTER!

LAST TIME WE SAW A MEOWSER MOVIE I FELL ASLEEP, BUT NOT TODAY!

BREEEEEP

GEEZ, THIS MOVIE IS SLOW...

WHEN'S MEOWSER GOING TO GET TO VEGAS?!

NGH...I SLEPT A LOT YESTERDAY, BUT I'M GETTING SO SLEEPY...

MEOWSER?! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!

I'M STAYING AWAKE UNTIL THE END, NO MATTER WHAT!!

GOTTA FIGHT OFF THE SLEEPI-NESS...

NGH!

CLENCH

THIS IS THE NEW ME!

NO!! I CAN'T FALL ASLEEP!!

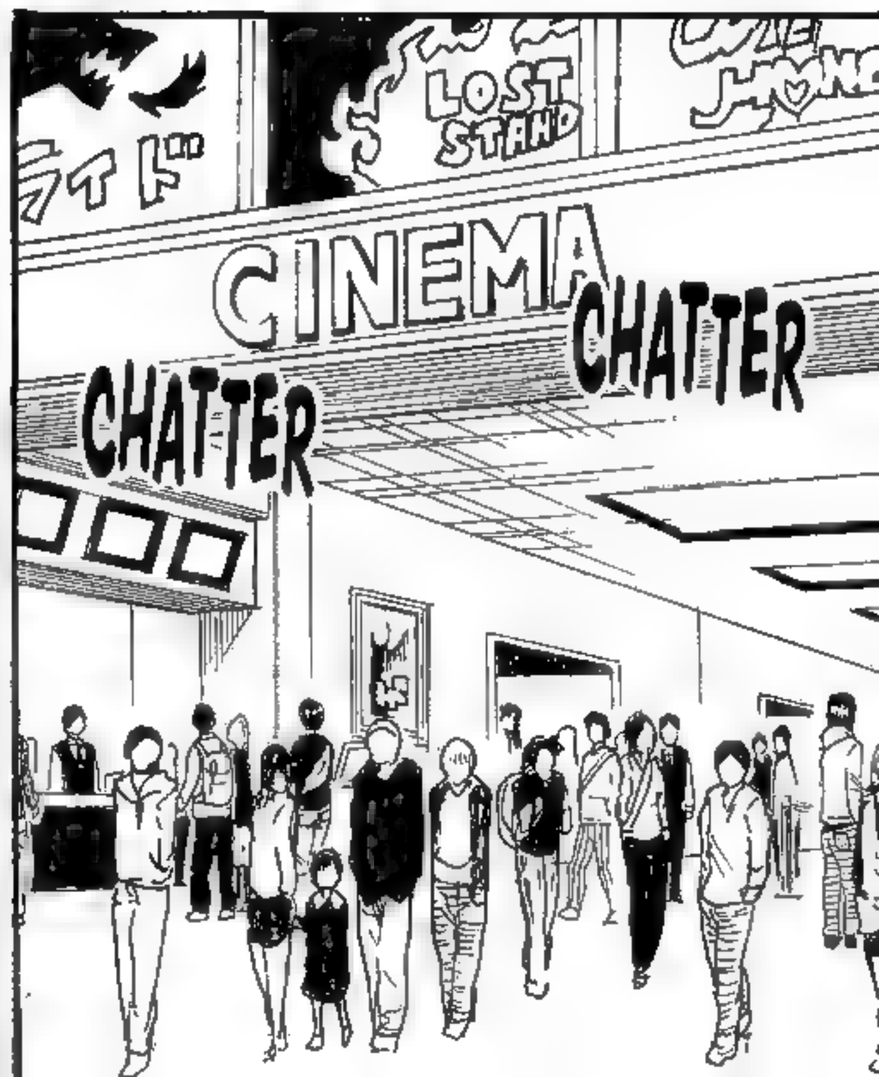
SHAKA SHAKA

I DON'T GET IT...

ZZZZ

NO MATTER WHAT, GOTTA STAY AWAKE...

CLENCH



STUPID, STUPID, STUPID!

GAH!! WHAT AM I DOING? I'M THE SAME AS EVER!!

I GUESS I FELL ASLEEP...

YEP. AROUND 15 MINUTES IN.

I'D SAY YOU HUNG IN THERE LONGER THAN USUAL.

GOTTA MOVE ON TO THE NEXT THING!

WELL, NO POINT IN GETTING DISCOURAGED!

ER... UM...

WELL... HOW WAS IT?

IT WAS GOOD!

TOO BAD WE CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER!

RATS!!

TSUTAYA

ALL RIGHT... TIME FOR LUNCH!

I MADE RESERVA-TIONS!

WHAT?! RESERVA-TIONS?!

WHAT'S UP WITH YOU TODAY?

You booked a restaurant yourself?

WHAT? I CAN BOOK A RESTAURANT!

IT'S ON THE TOP FLOOR OF THIS BUILDING...

YOU USUALLY WANT MEAT AND...

I'VE HEARD OF THAT PLACE...BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT SOBA?

W-WAIT A SEC!

I FEEL LIKE SOBA TODAY.

COME ON.

A SOBA RESTAURANT ?!

IT'S A SOBA RESTAURANT CALLED MAN MAN AN...

SSHLLRRPP

Man An

HOPE HE ENJOYS THIS...

IT'S THE RESTAURANT YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO TRY.

IT'S GOOD?

EVERY BITE BRINGS OUT THE SUBTLE FRAGRANCES, AND IT SLIDES DOWN THE THROAT SO SMOOTHLY...

IT'S GOT THE BEST TEXTURE OF ANY SOBA I'VE EVER HAD!!

WOW!! THIS IS AMAZING !!

IT'S SUPER GOOD!!

A bit pricey, but worth it.

EVEN TWO OR THREE MORE SERVINGS PROBABLY WON'T DO IT.

I'M STILL HUNGRY.

WOW, HE SEEMS REALLY HAPPY!

BUT... ONE PROBLEM ...

I NEED TO BE FEMININE!

I WANT TO BE THE KIND OF GIRL HE LIKES...

GOTTA JUST GRIN AND BEAR IT!

MM... I'M ALL DONE!

RAKU'S ALWAYS TELLING ME I EAT TOO MUCH..!

BUT IT'S NOT LADYLIKE TO EAT A TON LIKE I USUALLY DO...

GOGGNRRGLL

THANKS.

...

WANT SOME OF MINE?

...

WELL, NO BIGGIE! ON TO THE NEXT THING...!

WHAT, THERE'S MORE?!

WHAT'S COME OVER HER TODAY?

ME AND MY STUPID METABOLISM ...

GAH!! WHY'D MY STUPID STOMACH HAVE TO GROWL!!

SURE.

I LOVE ANIMALS.

MEOW

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LIKED THIS SORT OF THING...

WOW...

MEOW

MEOW

MEOW

NEKO CAFE

BUT THEY DON'T MUCH LIKE ME.

DAMN IT!!

ARE YOU STOKED TO BE HERE?

AND YOU LIKE CATS TOO, RIGHT?

WELL... I DO LIKE CATS...

I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE!!

THEY DON'T MEAN ANY HARM...

I COULDN'T DO THAT! POOR THINGS!

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

MAYBE YOU SHOULD DEFEND YOUR-SELF!

HEY... ARE YOU OKAY?

FLINCH

I'M SURE THERE'S A CAT HERE THAT LIKES YOU...

OH, COME ON!

Like Ponchi!

JUST BEING CLOSE TO SO MANY CATS IS NICE...

IT'S OKAY. I'M USED TO IT.

THIS IS TOO PATHETIC... THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET A CAT TO LIKE ME?!

MEOW MEEEOW

SNUGGLE SNUGGLE

YOU...

YOU LIKE HIM, DON'T YOU?

KRRRRRR

TREMBLE TREMBLE SHAKA SHAKA

What a surprise!!

WELL...A LITTLE...

YOU LIKE FISHING?!

Fishing Hole

WOW!! WE'RE GOING FISHING NOW...?

Bonyari Fish Center

Fishing

And kinda weird...

IT'S NICE THAT YOU'RE INTERESTED...

WELL, SURE.

TEACH ME SOME STUFF.

SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE REALLY INTO IT THESE DAYS.

So when this happens, here's what you can do...

BUT HE'S ENJOYING IT, AND THAT'S WHAT MATTERS.

I REALLY DON'T GET WHAT'S FUN ABOUT THIS.

HMM...

Okay... First we bait the hook...

Hey! A carp!

SINCE WHEN DO TEENAGERS LIKE FISHING?

IT'S SUCH AN OLD-MAN HOBBY.

REEL IT IN, QUICK!

HUH? REALLY?

HEY, YOU'VE GOT A NIBBLE!

OH... UM... HOW?

L-LIKE THIS?!

YANK

HMM?

GOOD.

HE LOOKS HAPPY.

AAAA

AAA

AAA

YAAAAAA

HYAAAAAAA

KA SPLOSH

IT'S FINE.

DON'T BE.

I'M SO SORRY.

I KNOW IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.

You can quit groveling and apologizing...

IT'S REALLY OKAY.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO PULL SO HARD...

I'M SO SO SO SORRY.

WRING

IT'S LIKE WE'RE DOING ALL STUFF THAT I LIKE...

CHOOSING *MEOWSER* AT THE MOVIES AND SOBA FOR LUNCH...

YOU'RE ACTING REAL DIFFERENT.

BUT WHAT'S UP WITH YOU TODAY?

THAT'S WHAT I REALLY WANT TO KNOW.

YOU'RE SO DENSE.

NO REASON ...

NORMALLY WE ALWAYS DO STUFF I LIKE.

THAT'S ALL...

WHY??

OH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD. THIS ISN'T YOU!

...

MUTTER MUTTER ...

IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING SPECIAL OR WHATEVER...

...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH DOING THE STUFF YOU LIKE EVERY NOW AND THEN?!

IT WAS JUST A WHIM, OKAY?

!

I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT...

...BUT IT'S ONLY FUN IF YOU HAVE FUN TOO!

ANYWAY... THANK YOU.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT PROMPTED THIS...

...BUT I APPRECIATE IT.

SURE, I COME UP WITH THE PLANS WHILE THINKING ABOUT THE THINGS YOU LIKE TO DO...

OTHERWISE, WE BOTH WON'T HAVE ANY FUN...

...BUT I HAVE A GOOD TIME TOO.

I'M STILL JUST SURPRISED YOU CAME UP WITH ALL THIS STUFF.

SURE.

YOU REALLY FEEL THAT WAY?

BUT I GUESS SO. PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS CHANGING.

DUNNO... I'VE NEVER DATED ANYONE FOR REAL.

YOU THINK THIS HAPPENS WITH REAL COUPLES TOO?

THESE LITTLE NEAR MISSES...

DO YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON ANYONE?

BLRFF

...

HEY...

YEAH.

GOOD POINT.

OF COURSE NOT!

N-NO WAY!

I CAN'T TELL HER ABOUT ONODERA! NO WAY!

IT'S A NORMAL QUESTION! WE'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL!

W-WHAT'S SO WEIRD?

MAYBE SO, BUT STILL...

WHAT ??

I DON'T THINK SO ANYMORE.

THESE DAYS...

WOW, THAT OLD STORY...

We haven't talked about it since your birthday last year. Good memory.

REALLY?

I THOUGHT YOU STILL LIKED THAT GIRL YOU MET TEN YEARS AGO.

OH... ...

SO THERE ISN'T ANYONE NOW...

SO...

IF I'M GOING TO LIKE SOMEONE, I THINK IT SHOULD BE SOMEONE I KNOW NOW.

...THE PAST IS IN THE PAST.

THESE DAYS, I FEEL LIKE...

I REMEMBER YOU SAYING YOU DON'T REALLY GET THAT STUFF...

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

OH...

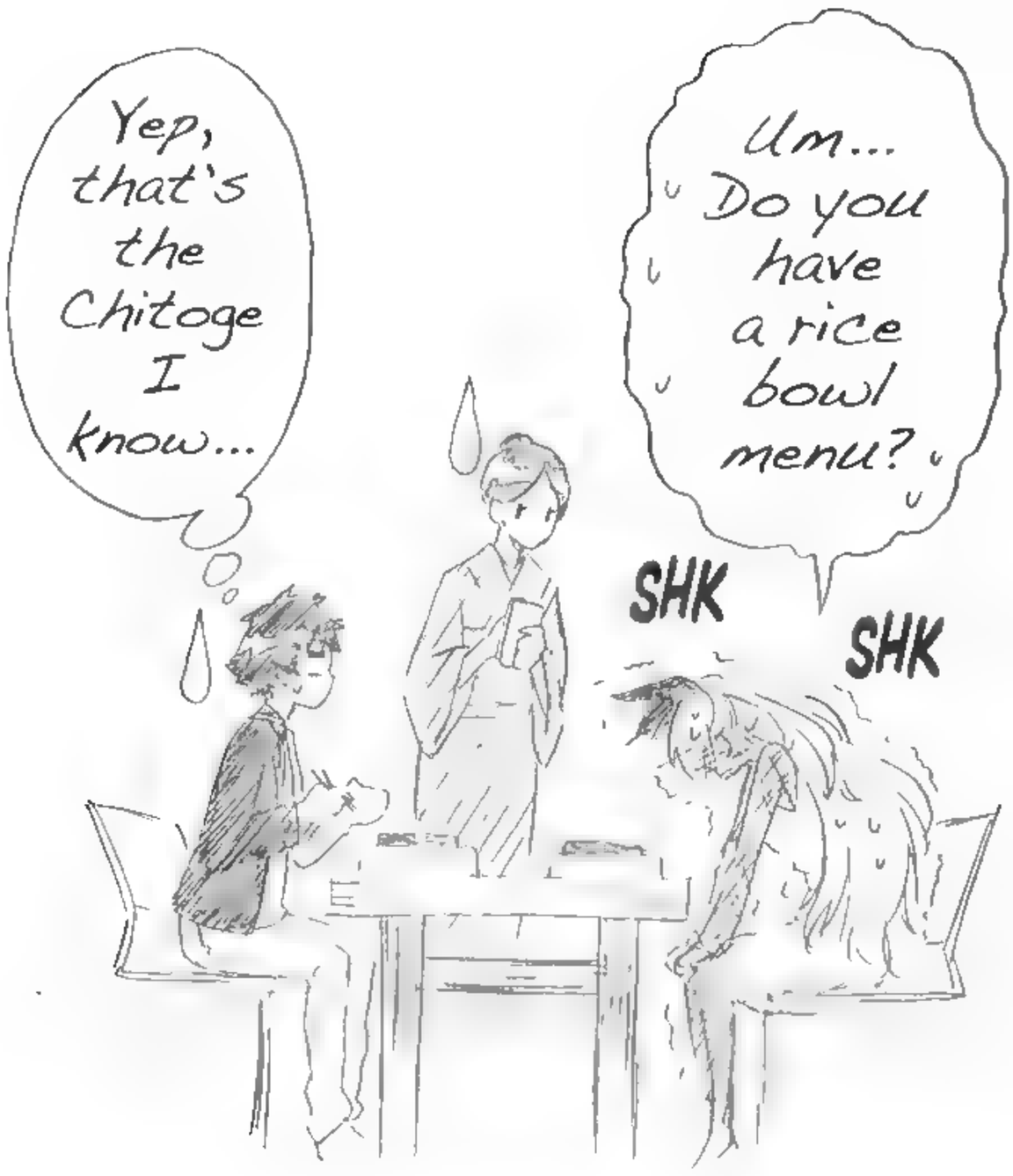
ME?

DO YOU LIKE ANYONE?

THERE IS SOMEONE.

YES.

WHAAAT?


Yep, that's the Chitoge I know...
Um... Do you have a rice bowl menu?
SHK
SHK

Chapter 175: Confusion

S-SO...?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

SAY WHAT?

HUH?

...HAVE A CRUSH...?

YOU...

THAT'S NOT IT...

N-NO...

WHAT, YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

WELL, SHEESH! I'M A TEENAGER IN THE FLOWER OF HER YOUTH!

IT'S NORMAL TO HAVE A CRUSH!

...?

A CRUSH...

W-WOW...

YOU... HAVE A CRUSH ON SOMEONE...

WHAAAAAT?!

SHEESH, IS IT THAT HARD TO BELIEVE?!

You think I'm weird or some-thing?

COME ON! I CAN FALL IN LOVE!

THAT WAS LAST YEAR OR THE YEAR BEFORE, RIGHT?

WHAT ?!

AND YOU SAID YOU REALLY DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT LOVE...

YOU NEVER GAVE ANY INDICATION...

B-B-B-B-BUT... YOU'VE NEVER MENTIONED IT BEFORE...

WHY WOULD I?!

OH... WELL... UH...

I'M NOT TELLING YOU!!

WHAT ?!

WELL, WHO IS IT?

YOUR CRUSH...

I GUESS...

I'LL TELL YOU SOME-TIME...

WHAT?!

ACTUALLY...

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE READY?!

I-I JUST DO!!

I-I'M NOT READY!!

WHAT?! NO WAY!!

THEN JUST TELL ME NOW!!

...

OKAY...

I'LL TELL YOU EVEN-TUALLY!

NOT TODAY, ANYWAY!

ANOTHER TIME!

LATER!

SOME-TIME!

WAIT A SEC...MORE IMPORTANTLY ...

WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S PERFECTLY NATURAL, BUT IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME BEFORE...

CHITOGE LIKES SOMEONE...

O

...AM I SO FLUSTERED BY THIS?!

WHY...

DOOONG DOOONG DIIING

CHITOGE HAS A CRUSH ON SOME-ONE!!

HEY, SHU! YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE THIS!!

OKAY...

I'M LISTENING...

RIGHT. I SEE...

SO, SHE WOUND UP TELLING YOU SHE LIKES SOMEONE...

INTERESTING.

STARE

...

...ARE VERY AMUSING. ☆

YOU, MY FRIEND...

WHAT ?!

RIGHT ON!

HEY, RAKU...

DUDE, IT'S NOT FOR ME TO TELL!

WHO ON EARTH IS IT?! TELL ME!!

DON'T TELL ME YOU ALREADY KNEW?!

Some-one close...

QUITE CLOSE ...?!

FOR REAL...?!

BUT IT'S SOMEONE YOU KNOW WELL.

SOMEONE QUITE CLOSE...

IS THAT SO?

YOU SEEM KINDA FREAKED OUT.

IT'S JUST WEIRD... AND SURPRISING ...

NO...IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME...

THAT KIRISAKI LIKES SOMEONE?

DOES IT BOTHER YOU?

WHAT ?!

IT'S JUST SO OUT OF THE BLUE...

BUT YOU LIKE ONODERA EVEN THOUGH KIRISAKI'S YOUR FALSE GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT?

IT'S THE SAME THING.

!

NO WAY!!

WORRIED YOU MIGHT LOSE HER TO SOMEONE ELSE, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ONLY PRETEND DATING?

I SHOULD SUPPORT HER...

...SHE COULD BE WITH THE GUY SHE LIKES INSTEAD OF PRETENDING TO BE WITH ME.

CHITOGE PROBABLY ALSO WISHES...

HE HAS A POINT...

YOU REALLY HAVE NO CLUE, RAKU?

HEY...

HMM...

WHY SO QUICK TO RULE HIMSELF OUT?

EVEN IF SHE WAS, WHAT DO I CARE?

MAYBE THAT EXPLAINS OUR WEIRD DATE YESTERDAY... MAYBE SHE WAS PRACTICING TO MAKE THE GUY SHE LIKES HAPPY!

GASP!

I mean, I enjoyed myself...

...GIVE IT SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT?

WHY DON'T YOU...

THE PERSON CHITOGE LIKES, A PERSON QUITE CLOSE TO US...

FOR REAL?

GORI-SAWA?

HEYA, DARLING!

JOLT

SO WHY AM I SO...

IT SHOULDN'T MATTER TO ME IF CHITOGE LIKES SOMEONE, RIGHT?

GAH! WHY AM I SO TENSE?

I WAS GOING TO GO TO THE STUDENT STORE...

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO COME WITH...

THERE YOU ARE!

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU FORGOT TO BRING A DRINK TODAY?

RIGHT... A DRINK...

?

ACTUALLY, I BOUGHT DRINKS ALREADY...

FROM THE VENDING MACHINE. TOO MANY, IN FACT!!

HUH?!

OH...NO REASON!

WHAT?

WHY'RE YOU STARING AT ME?

...??

W-WHAT'S WITH HIM?

Did I do some-thing?

HUUUH?!

He's running?!

WHAT?

KA VOOSH

SO GO ON WITHOUT ME!!

WHO DO YOU LIKE, ONODERA OR KIRISAKI?

GASP

I HAVE NO REASON TO ACT WEIRD!

GAH!! WHY'M I ALL AWKWARD NOW?!

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ONODERA...

WHAM WHAM WHAM

AUGH!! THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!!

DID YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME?

WHAT'S WRONG, ICHIJO? YOU SEEM FLUSTERED!

Sounded like you said my name...

I...I HEAR THE GRAPES ARE REALLY GOOD TODAY!

??

OH... NO, IT'S NOTHING ...

HMM?

DID YOU CALL ME?

BLRF!!

THIS MUST JUST BE...

...A SORT OF FATHERLY CONCERN...

YEAH...WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? I'M ALL ABOUT ONODERA!

I CAN'T LET WHAT SHU SAID MESS WITH MY HEAD!!

WOW... ONODERA REALLY IS CUTE.

?

AFTER ALL, SHE'S MY CLOSE FRIEND!

MAYBE I'LL BE A LITTLE SAD WHEN SHE'S WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

I WATCHED CHITOGE MAKE FRIENDS HERE AND LEARN TO FIT IN AT SCHOOL...

AFTER ALL, WE'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER.

BUT WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'LL BE HAPPY FOR HER...

UNDER THE CIRCUM-STANCES, SHE CAN'T DATE HIM NOW...

BUT IT'S MY DUTY TO SUPPORT HER!

KA

BLAMMO

WHY AM I UPSET?!

HAHAHA

TEE HEE HEE

A JEALOUS SCUMBAG WHO WANTS EVERYONE TO MYSELF?

AM I JUST A TOTAL JERK?

SO WHY DO I FEEL LIKE THIS?

ONODERA'S THE ONE I LIKE... I KNOW THAT...

KA

FWAM

RAKU DEEEEAR-EST!

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK DOWN!

Ugh... I hate myself...

WOBBLE

OH!

I HAD TO STOP BY THE NURSE'S OFFICE TO DROP OFF SOME PAPERS.

YOU WEREN'T IN HOMEROOM THIS MORNING...

I WAS WORRIED ...

BUT I'M TOTALLY FINE!

I'm great!

T- TACHIBANA ...?!

HELLO, RAKU DEAREST!

I'M GLAD WE'RE STARTING ANOTHER SEMESTER TOGETHER!

I was fine, really!

HONDA WOULDN'T LET ME LEAVE THE HOUSE.

AFTER WHAT HAPPENED ON THE ISLAND...AND YOU DIDN'T COME TO THE SHRINE AT NEW YEAR'S.

OF COURSE I WORRY!

YES! RAKU DEAREST, YOU WORRY TOO MUCH!

YOU'RE REALLY FINE?

SKW EEZ

!!

NOW, NOW! DON'T WORRY!

AS LONG AS I GET MY RECOMMENDED DAILY DOSE OF RAKU DEAREST, I'LL BE FINE!

Every cloud has a silver lining!

BUT I WAS THRILLED WHEN YOU CAME BY TO CHECK ON ME, RAKU DEAREST!

LISTEN... I...

YOU'RE TENSE, RAKU DEAREST!

HUH?

I NEVER MEANT TO CAUSE YOU CONCERN!

I TOLD YOU NOT TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT I SAID ON KIRIBATI!

NO NEED TO ACT DIFFERENTLY WITH ME NOW!

YEAH, BUT...

...

AND GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER WHEN YOU'RE READY. ♡

NO NEED TO FEEL PRESSURE. TAKE YOUR TIME DECIDING ABOUT ME.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO WORRY. THAT MAKES ME FEEL BAD.

MY HEALTH IS GOOD NOW.

OH...

WAIT...

GOOD DAY TO YOU, RAKU DEAREST! ♡

KA ZOOM

VWHO O O

I KNOW YOU'LL CHOOSE ME IN THE END!!

AND I KEEP USING MY FALSE RELATIONSHIP AS AN EXCUSE TO AVOID THE ISSUE.

SHE HAS REAL FEELINGS FOR ME.

IS THAT REALLY OKAY?

OH HO HO HO HO HO

IT ISN'T FAIR...

...FOR ME TO TAKE TACHIBANA FOR GRANTED.

WHRRL

WHRRL

WHRRL

IT CAN'T BE.

I'M NOT BEING HONEST WITH HER.

TO REALLY RESPOND TO HER FEELINGS, I HAVE TO...

I'M GETTING CONFUSED FROM THINKING TOO HARD!

AS IF THIS STUFF WITH CHITOGE WASN'T ENOUGH...!!

RUB RUB RUB

NNGAAAAAH!!

RATTLE

I'M HOME...

HUH?

TAKE A HOT BATH, START FRESH...

THEN I CAN DEAL WITH THIS...

ANYWAY, I SHOULD JUST RESET MY BRAIN.

WHAT THE...?!

HUH?!

TA

DAA!

CHATTER

YUI?

WHAT ON EARTH...

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

CAREFUL... THERE'S STUFF ALL OVER THE PLACE STILL...

OH, HI, RAKKY!

WHAT'S TOMOR-ROW?

WAIT...

OH, RIGHT!

A LITTLE TOO FABULOUS, IF YOU ASK ME...

CELEBRA-TION? TOMOR-ROW?

CHECK IT OUT!! WE GOT ALL THE PERFECT, FABULOUS DECORATIONS FOR TOMORROW'S CELEBRATION!

WELCOME HOME, YOUNG MASTER!!

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

I'VE NEVER MENTIONED IT SINCE COMING TO JAPAN!

WOW... YOU REMEM-BERED?!

THAT REALLY IS A SPECIAL OCCASION!

WELL, SURE! YOU'RE GOING TO BE TWENTY, RIGHT?

IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, ISN'T IT!!

YUI...

GOOD IDEA! LET'S DO THAT!

YOU KNOW... CHITOGE AND MARIKA AND THE REST....

I'D LIKE TO INVITE THE OTHERS TOO...

THIS IS THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM!

YEAH! THE BIRTHDAY OF THE DON OF THE CHAR SIU KAI!

...WE'LL NEED YOU TO RETURN TO CHINA.

BUT IF *THIS* DOESN'T WORK OUT NOW...

...

DON, I DON'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU...

Who could it be?!
Then again, maybe he's not in our class...
Or Suzuki maybe?
Is it Yamada?
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER

Invitation

SO, MS. YUI TURNS TWENTY TODAY?

IT'S SO WEIRD TO THINK OF OUR TEACHER JUST REACHING THE AGE OF ADULTHOOD.

Chapter 176: Child

*NOTE: IN JAPAN, YOU'RE CONSIDERED AN ADULT AT THE AGE OF TWENTY.

...

YES...

SHE'S BOUND FOR GREAT THINGS... DON'T YOU THINK, MISTRESS?

PLUS SHE'S A POWERFUL DON OF THE CHINESE MAFIA, AND SHE'S ONLY TWENTY!

HUH?!

NO... NOTHING'S WRONG!

...?

IS SOMETHING WRONG? YOU LOOK SAD.

HUH?

I'M IN LOVE WITH RAKKY! ♡

EVER SINCE THAT DAY, I'VE FELT AWKWARD...

HMM...I GUESS I FEEL KIND OF UNCOMFORTABLE AROUND YUI...

I KNOW SHE'S A GOOD PERSON, BUT I JUST DON'T REALLY CONNECT WITH HER...

TA-DAA!

WHOA!!

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE CARS?!

BUMP

PARDON ME...

I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY LUXURY CARS...

ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE HERE FOR YUI'S BIRTHDAY?

ANOTHER GUEST FOR YUI'S BIRTHDAY? HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A JAPANESE YAKUZA...

Y-Y-YIKES!!

CHATTER CHATTER

YAP YAP YAP YAP

How's your boss these days?

Oh, quite the young lady.

DA-DA-DUM

NO, EXCUSE ME...

My bad...

I...

EEEK!!

HEY, GUYS! OVER HERE!

SORRY... HOPE YOU WEREN'T TOO STARTLED.

ALL THE BIG SHOTS OF THE CHAR SIU KAI ARE HERE FOR THE PARTY.

WE'RE SHORT-HANDED, SO I'M HELPING OUT...

WOW, MUST BE ROUGH...

WELCOME, EVERYONE!

OH!

THANK YOU FOR COMING!

PLEASE, MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME!

GOOD EVENING!

OH! I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME, MARIKA!

THANK YOU!

Hmph!

Yay!

I'M JUST HERE TO SEE MY DARLING RAKU.

SHE'S JUST TWO YEARS OLDER THAN US...BUT SHE'S SO WOMANLY!

WOW... YUI LOOKS STUNNING!

THERE'S A LOT OF CEREMONY, SO I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TOO BORED.

PLEASE, RELAX AND ENJOY YOUR-SELVES.

IN ANY CASE, THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR COMING TODAY.

THANK YOU!

WOW! REALLY ?!

Amazing!

BY THE WAY, YUI, I HEARD YOU WERE CHOSEN AS THIS YEAR'S YOUNG WOMAN OF THE YEAR!

I JUST HOPE I CAN LIVE UP TO THE HONOR ...

I'M NOT SUR-PRISED.

NOT A LOT OF WOMEN HER AGE ALREADY HAVE THEIR TEACHER'S CERTIFICATION AND THEIR FIRST TEACH-ING JOB.

JOLT!

RAKU!

Where's the food?

Wow, look at those decora-tions.

OH... UM... WELL... ER...

HUH?!

YOU STILL BUSY?

CAN I HELP?

JUST RELAX AND HAVE FUN!

BESIDES, YOU'RE A GUEST!

I...I...I GOT IT COVERED!

WE'RE ALMOST DONE!

IS IT ME...

...OR IS HE AVOIDING ME?

HUH?

HE'S BEEN WEIRD SINCE AFTER OUR DATE THE DAY BEFORE THAT....

COME TO THINK OF IT...I FELT IT YESTERDAY TOO.

DID I DO SOMETHING...?

OH! RAKU DEAR-EST!

TACHI-BANA...

YOU LOOK A BIT PALE...

HUH?

CHATTER CHATTER

YAP YAP

How wonderful...

HUH?

JUST US TWO, ALONE?!

YES, PLEASE !!

DO YOU WANT TO LIE DOWN SOME-WHERE?

OF COURSE I WORRY.

It's so sweet!

YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, RAKU DEAR-EST!

JUST THE USUAL... A TOUCH OF ANEMIA...

Let go, wouldja?

THEY SURE LOOK CHUMMY!

HE AVOIDS ME, BUT WITH MARIKA...

GAH! THAT RAKU!

EVEN SO, I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW DIFFERENT HE TREATS HER... YEESH!

I KNOW... I'M JUST A CHILDISH, VIOLENT GIRL, RIGHT?

CHEW CHEW CHEW CHEW CHEW

LOOK AT HIM FAWNING ALL OVER HER... THAT CREEP!!

SO HE'S ONLY STAND-OFFISH WITH ME, HUH?

THAT JERK!

SWIPE NOM NOM NOM NOM

SWIPE NOM NOM NOM NOM

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

ABOVE?

WOBBLE

?

LOOK UP!

ABOVE YOU!!

OH NO... WATCH OUT, CHITOGE !!

?!

SPLAT!

YIKES!! CHITOGE?!

EEEEE!!

EEK!!

YAP

YAP

YAP

GOOD HEAVENS! DON, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

KA

SHOOSH

SPLISH

I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT HURT.

IT'S FINE! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

IT'S ALL MY FAULT...

YUI...I'M SO SORRY...

SPLISH

...TO ESCAPE ALL THE HOB-NOBBING ...

AND BESIDES, I'M GRATE-FUL...

IT'S FINE. THE CEREMONY WAS OVER, ANYWAY.

BUT THIS IS YOUR BIG DAY...

THANKS SO MUCH FOR COMING TODAY.

CHITOGE...

HUH?

SPLISH

BLUB BLUB

SHE MUST BE...

...JUST SAYING THAT TO BE NICE.

SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN UNCOMFORTABLE AROUND ME EVER SINCE.

I DID SORT OF DECLARE WAR ON YOU THAT ONE TIME.

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NOT COME.

YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME, YOU KNOW.

IT WOULD BE FUN IF YOU COME TO SPEND THE NIGHT AGAIN, CHITOGE!

HUH?! NO...I... UH...

...AND I COULD SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOU GUYS.

GEE, I WISH THINGS COULD JUST STAY LIKE THIS...

...?

WHY...

YUI...

DO YOU REALLY ...

...HAVE A CRUSH ON RAKU?

YUI...

I-I'M CONFUSED...

BUT YOU DON'T TRY TO SABOTAGE ME. YOU INVITE ME OVER...

AND THAT MAKES US RIVALS, RIGHT?

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT!

YOU KNOW THAT I LIKE HIM TOO...

OF COURSE...

...I LIKE RAKU.

I LIKE YOU...

...JUST AS MUCH AS I LIKE RAKU, CHITOGE.

THE THING IS...

I REALLY LOVE YOU ALL!

AND KOSAKI AND TSUGUMI...

YOU AND MARIKA...

I DON'T MIND IF YOU OR MARIKA END UP WITH RAKU...

...AS LONG AS YOU CARE FOR HIM AS STRONGLY AS I DO.

...!

OF COURSE MY FEELINGS FOR RAKU ARE REAL.

I DON'T THINK ANYONE LOVES HIM MORE THAN I DO.

BUT...

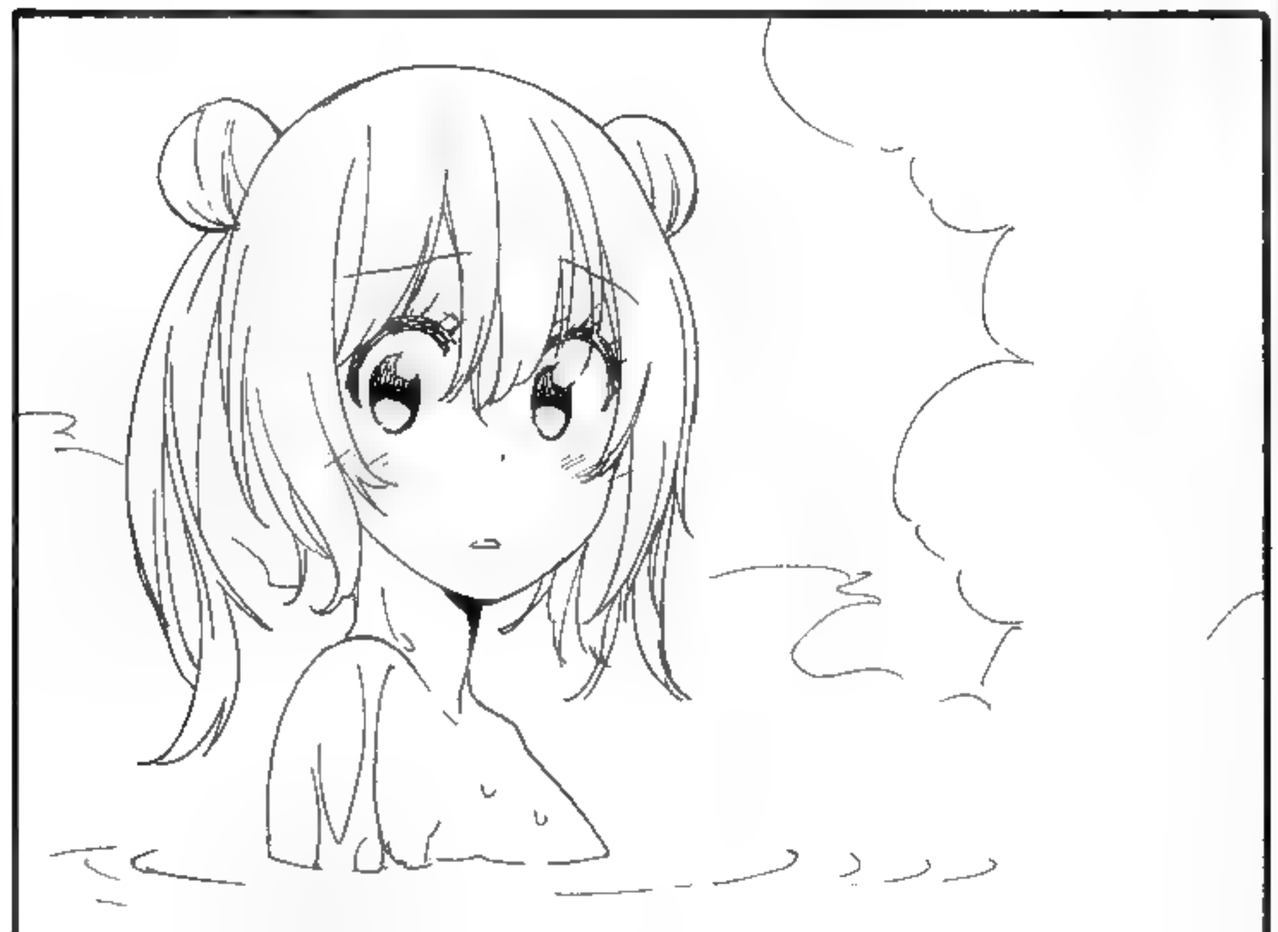
I GUESS IT'S ASKING A LOT...

...BUT DEEP DOWN, I JUST WANT EVERYONE TO BE HAPPY.

HOW COULD I WANT TO SABOTAGE YOU?

I KNOW I SOUND DUMB.

I KNOW, IT'S WEIRD.



WE SHARE A SPECIAL BOND...

...FROM TEN YEARS AGO.

IT MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO ME. IT'S IRREPLACEABLE.

I CARE FOR YOU ALL THE MORE NOW THAT WE'VE ALL BEEN REUNITED.

I GET IT.

THAT'S YUI TO A TEE.

NO...

YOU DON'T.

NOT AT ALL.

?

SHE'S SO GROWN-UP.

SO DIFFERENT FROM ME...

WELL, IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO COME.

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE YUI.

I DON'T.

I JUST CAME TO SEE YOU, RAKU DEAREST.

Oh.

I'M FINE!

IT'S JUST ANEMIA. I JUST NEED TO REST A BIT.

HOW'RE YOU FEELING?

SHE'S THE MOST CHILDISH OF US ALL!

HUH?

HMPH!

I DISAGREE, RAKU DEAREST!

COURSE, SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN SUPER GROWN-UP.

SO, YUI'S OFFICIALLY AN ADULT.

...BUT SHE'S BASICALLY A CHILD.

Yay!~

SHE'S CLEVER AND TALENTED, SO NOT EVERYONE NOTICES...

SHE HAS A FIELD OF FLOWERS ETERNALLY BLOOMING IN HER BRAIN.

THAT'S WHY I DON'T LIKE HER...

SHE DOESN'T REALIZE HOW SHE REALLY FEELS...

...AND SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE GUTS TO GET HURT OR TO HURT ANYONE ELSE. SHE DOESN'T FOLLOW THROUGH.

IT'S NOT FAIR FOR YOU TO DO EVERYTHING FOR EVERYONE, RAKU DEAREST.

I'LL GET YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK TOO.

WAIT, LET ME...

I'M GOING TO GET US SOMETHING TO DRINK.

ENOUGH ABOUT HER. I'M THIRSTY.

NOW...

WAIT, DON!

RUB

I SHOULD PAY MY RESPECTS TO EVERYONE.

RUB

LET'S SEE... PARTY SHOULD BE ALMOST FINISHED...

LISTEN CLOSELY.

I HAVE IMPORTANT WORDS FOR YOU, DON.

HELLO, NIGHT!

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU ALL DAY!

YOU HAVE RECEIVED A PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE, DON.

IT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD, THE WAY YOU'RE PRESENTING IT...

WELL, ANYWAY, GO ON...

NO COMPARISON TO THAT *KID*...

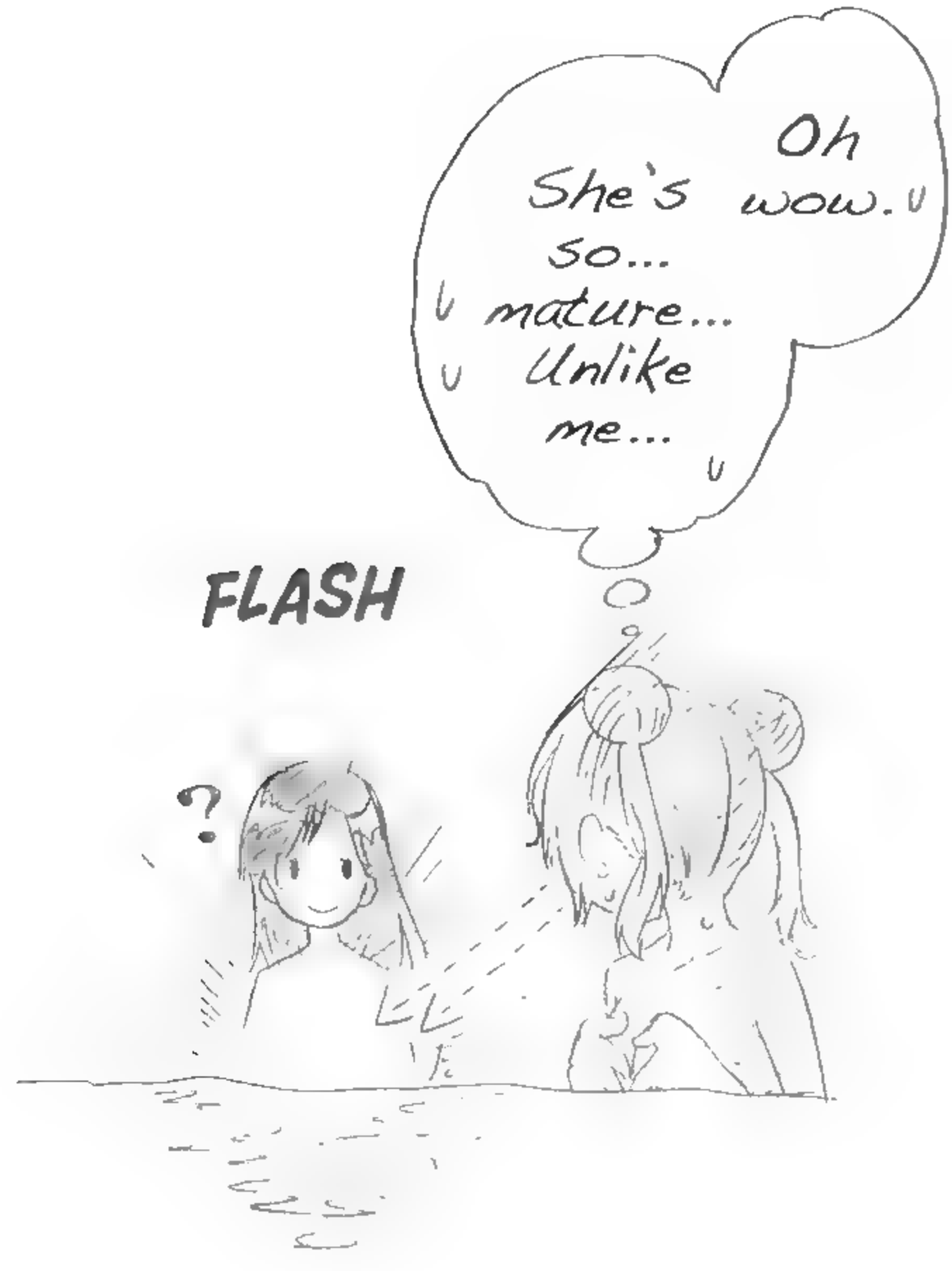
AN EXCELLENT FAMILY BACK-GROUND... HIGHLY SKILLED ...

THE SUITOR HAS SUPER-LATIVE CREDEN-TIALS.

YOU ARE TO ACCEPT HIS PROPOSAL.

YOU CANNOT REFUSE.

HUH?


Oh wow.
She's so... mature... Unlike me...
FLASH
?

阿!

BUT THIS IS SO SUDDEN!

MARRIAGE?!

IT'S NOT SUDDEN.

THE OTHER PARTY HAS BEEN APPROACHING US FOR SOME TIME.

Chapter 177: Remembering

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN MARRY WHOMEVER YOU LIKE, YOU'RE WRONG!

GETTING MARRIED AND HAVING HEIRS TO CONTINUE THE LINEAGE IS ALSO A PART OF THE DON'S JOB!

SINCE YOU BECAME THE DON, YOUR BODY DOES NOT BELONG ONLY TO YOU.

YOU KNOW THIS.

MY JOB IS TO MAKE SURE YOU FULFILL YOUR DUTY.

YOU DIDN'T CHOOSE TO BE THE DON, SO I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU. BUT NO COMPROMISES.

YOU WASTED YOUR OWN CHANCE. THIS IS THE CONSEQUENCE.

I WOULD HAVE SUPPORTED YOU IF YOU HAD MARRIED THAT KID, BUT YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.

YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE ALREADY.

BUT I...

YOU TURNED TWENTY TODAY. YOU'RE AN ADULT.

WE HAD MANY PROPOSALS BEFORE NOW. THERE'S NO MORE REASON TO REFUSE.

TIME TO FULFILL YOUR ADULT RESPONSIBILITY.

BUT MAYBE WE'LL GIVE YOU...

...ONE LAST LITTLE CHANCE.

I RECOGNIZE THAT KID TO BE ABOVE AVERAGE.

AS LONG AS YOU GET MARRIED, EITHER ONE IS OKAY.

YOU CHOOSE WHICH ONE YOU LIKE.

THE MATTER OF THIS MARRIAGE MUST BE SETTLED IN ONE WEEK.

BUT IF YOU MAKE THAT KID YOURS BEFORE THEN...

...WE'LL CALL IT OFF.

ONE WEEK.

LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR ANSWER.

CLATTER

ALL STAND!

BOW!

CLATTER

BE SEATED!

Helper Duty
Tanaka
Nakata

DIIING

DOOONG

TAK

TAK

TAK

RIGHT... ENGLISH CLASS...

PANIC PANIC

English

THE BOOK'S UPSIDE DOWN!

AREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO HAVE ENGLISH NOW?

TEACHER?

HUH?!

OH!! YOU'RE RIGHT!! SORRY, EVERYONE!!

THERE'S NO SUCH STUDENT IN OUR CLASS!!

Who's Bonbae?!

PLEASE READ, BONBAE!

OKAY... FOR THE NEXT EXERCISE ...

THE TEXT-BOOKS AREN'T DICTION-ARIES!!

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 1,205!!

FWIP FWIP

??

SHE'S ACTING WEIRD...

WHAT'S UP WITH YUI?

Yikes!! The chalk!!

KRASH KLATTER KLATTER

Teacher?!

BASICALLY, I HAVE TO TELL HIM HOW I FEEL.

I HAVE TO MAKE RAKKY MINE IN ONE WEEK...

THIS IS TOO MUCH.

BUT...M-MARRIAGE?!

WHAT AM I DOING?

WORMP

SIGH...

I'M BEING A TERRIBLE TEACHER!

SIIII IIGH

AFTER WHAT I SAID YESTER-DAY...

How could I want to sabotage you?

AND HOW WILL CHITOGE AND MARIKA REACT IF I DO?

I LOVE RAKKY.

NOT AS A BROTHER. AS A GUY.

I ALWAYS HAVE.

...DO I WANT?

WHAT...

...

SWIP

SWIP

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THOSE FRIEND-SHIPS.

...ARE ALSO VERY, VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.

BUT MY RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHITOGE AND THE OTHERS...

2-C

AND IF RAKKY ACCEPTS HOW I FEEL FOR HIM...

I'LL STILL HAVE HIM, BUT I DON'T THINK CHITOGE AND MARIKA WILL WANT TO BE AROUND ME.

BUT IF RAKKY AND I GET TOGETHER...

HE WON'T CALL ME BIG SISTER ANYMORE.

WE MIGHT LOSE WHAT WE HAVE...THE WAY WE'RE LIKE FAMILY.

...OUR RELATIONSHIP WILL CHANGE TOO.

RAKKY ALREADY HAS...

BESIDES...

I'D RATHER STAY LIKE THIS...

I DON'T WANT TO RUIN MY RELATIONSHIPS WITH RAKKY AND THE OTHERS.

KLAT

TER!!

JOLT

MARIKA?

...

YOU'RE STILL HERE?

.....

WELL, WELL!

IF IT ISN'T MS. KANAKURA!

OH, NO REASON. I JUST FORGOT SOME-THING.

I'LL LEAVE AS SOON AS I TAKE CARE OF IT.

WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO LOCK UP...

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THAT?

WHA ...?!

IN THE HALLWAY, AT RAKU DEAREST'S HOUSE YESTER-DAY.

I JUST HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR ...

BY THE WAY...

I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE QUITE A GOOD MARRIAGE PROPOSAL.

MAY YOU LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER. I'LL TAKE CARE OF RAKU DEAREST, SO DON'T WORRY.

YOU HAVE MY HEARTFELT CONGRATU-LATIONS.

I UNDER-STAND HE'S FROM A FAMILY BEFITTING THE DON OF THE CHAR SIU KAI.

CONGRATU-LATIONS. I'M GLAD FOR YOU.

I HEAR HE'S A VERY GOOD PERSON...

IT'S QUITE A NICE PROPOSAL ...

HMM...

YES... RIGHT...

...I HOPE WE'LL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS...

SO, MARIKA, EVEN IF I GET MARRIED ...

...AND IT'S PART OF MY DUTY AS DON...

THERE'S BEEN TALK OF THIS FOR QUITE SOME TIME...

...

NOT ONE BIT!

...HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL, HAVE YOU?

YOU REALLY ...

GRRRRRR

YOU ALWAYS IGNORE YOUR OWN FEELINGS...

YER JUST GOIN' ROUND HURTIN' EVERYONE THAT WAY, THAT'S WHAT!

YOU THINK IF YOU JUST GO ROUND ACTING NICE TO EVERYONE, NOBODY'LL EVER GET HURT?

WOOSH

WHAT YOU DO AIN'T THOUGHT-FUL!!

!!

YOU'RE JUST A LILY-LIVERED CHICKEN, THAT'S ALL!!

YOU'RE AFRAID OF GETTING HURT!

YOU'RE JUST PROTECT-ING YOURSELF!

...DON'T EVEN CALL IT LOVE!!

IF THAT'S THE BEST YOU CAN DO...

IS THAT HOW LITTLE YOU CARE FOR RAKU DEAREST?!

GRRR

SKULK

MARIKA...

I'M LEAVING!!

THE MORE I TALK TO YOU, THE MORE TICKED OFF I GET!

AAAARGH!!

MY...

...FEEL-INGS...

...FOR RAKKY...

KA FWUD

OUR FIRST KISS?

I DON'T REMEMBER. IT WAS SO LONG AGO!

THEN WHAT ABOUT...

CHRRPA CHIRP CHIRP

MIIIIN MIN MIN MIN

I KNEW IT! YOU FORGOT THAT TOO?!

THAT'S HARSH! IT WAS A BIG DEAL TO ME!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

WHAT?!

F-F-FIRST...

MIIIIN

I ONLY FELL CUZ YOU CALLED OUT TO ME, YUI!

MIN MIN MIN

TOLD YA TO BE CAREFUL!

LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE COVERED IN MUD AGAIN!

SLIP

EEK!

I CAN DO IT MYSELF!

HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF THOSE MUDDY CLOTHES.

YIKES!

WH UDD

MIIIIIN

MIIIIIN
MIIIIIN

MM!
MMF!!

THIS FEELING...

HUH?

I thought I was a goner there!

...

YOU WERE SMOOSH-ING ME, YUI!

I COULDN'T BREATHE!

GASP

GASP

GASP!

JOLT!!

I STARTED TO THINK OF RAKKY...

...AS A BOY, NOT A LITTLE BROTHER...

YOU...

YOU'D BETTER NOT JUST BE PLAYING AROUND!

HUH? WHAT?

...THAT'S WHEN IT STARTED.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...

EVER SINCE THEN...

ALL THIS TIME...

WELCOME HOME, YUI!

YOU'VE BEEN WORKING LATE! COME RELAX NOW!

I MADE YOUR FAVORITE FISH STEW TONIGHT, YUI!

I THINK IT CAME OUT REALLY GOOD TOO! JUST WAIT!

I CAN'T WAIT!

WOW ...

THANKS ...

...

HOW WOULD YOU REACT IF I TOLD YOU I WAS GETTING MARRIED?

HEY... RAKKY...

HAPPY? OR LONELY?

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?

GEEZ... I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE ...

...

You are??

U U YOU ...?!

WHA...?! M-M-MARRIED?!

NO, I MEAN... JUST HYPO-THETICALLY...

BUT...I GUESS MOSTLY HAPPY.

BOTH HAPPY AND LONELY, I GUESS.

...I WOULD BE REALLY HAPPY FOR YOU.

...AND BEING WITH HIM MAKES YOU HAPPY...

IF YOU LOVE THE GUY...

RAKKY...

RIGHT...

IF I LOVED HIM...

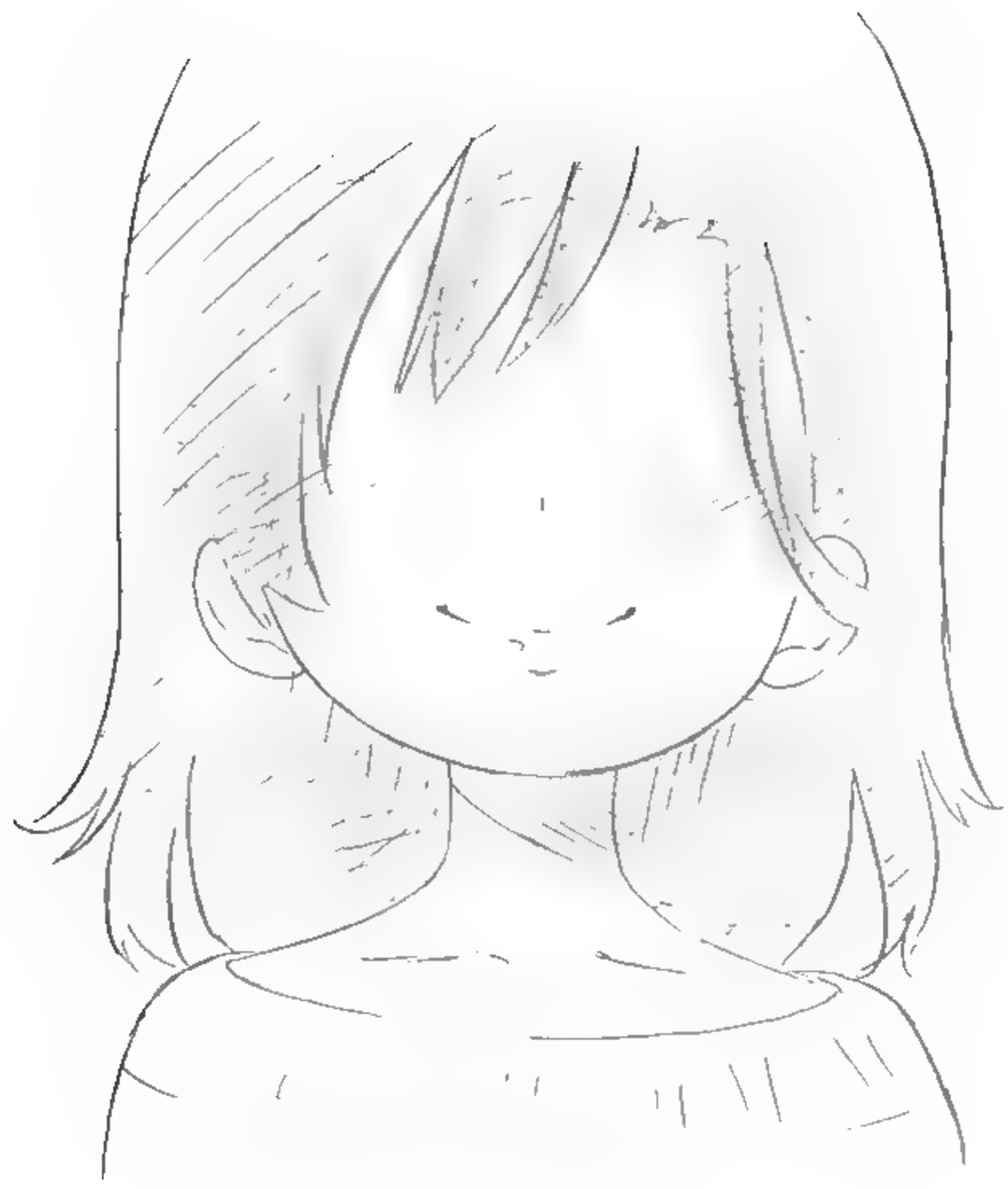
THAT WOULD BE AWESOME!

AS A MAN...

I REALLY LOVE YOU.

I...

...LOVE YOU, RAKKY.



HUH...?

...

YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T JOKE AROUND ABOUT THIS STUFF...

YUI...IF SOMEONE OVERHEARD US, THEY MIGHT GET THE WRONG IDEA...

YOU LOVE ME...AS A MAN?

I'M NOT JOKING.

I KNOW THIS COMES AS A SHOCK.

BUT...

I REALIZED THAT I CAN'T LIE ABOUT WHAT MATTERS MOST TO ME.

A FRIEND HELPED ME SEE THAT.

?!

I WAS ALWAYS IN LOVE WITH YOU, RAKKY.

SINCE WE WERE KIDS...

...FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

I'VE LOVED YOU...

Chapter 178: Growing Up

...THAT I WANT TO BE WITH YOU, RAKKY.

BUT IT MADE ME REALIZE...

NOT AS BROTHER AND SISTER, BUT AS A MAN AND A WOMAN.

NIGHT IS PUSHING ME TO GET MARRIED VERY SOON.

WELL, IT'S NOT JUST HYPO-THETICAL.

AND WHAT I SAID ABOUT GETTING MARRIED...

...

...OUR ENTIRE LIVES.

I WANT TO BE WITH YOU...

...I'LL TALK SOME SENSE INTO NIGHT...

AS LONG AS IT'S A POSSIBILITY...

OH!

BUT I'M NOT ASKING THAT YOU MARRY ME RIGHT AWAY!

PLEASE LEVEL WITH ME.

WITH THAT UNDER-STANDING...

I KNOW YOU AND CHITOGE'S RELATIONSHIP ISN'T REAL.

AND ALSO...

...THE WAY I DO?

...THAT YOU COULD COME TO FEEL...

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES...

...

UH...

I... UH...

W...

I-I'M SO CONFUSED!!

YUI... LIKES ME? LIKE...AS A GUY?!

WHAAAAAT?!

AND... MARRIAGE?!

PLUS...SHE KNOWS ABOUT CHITOGE?!

WHAAAAT?!

HANG ON!!

YUI IS LIKE A SISTER TO ME...

THIS IS MORE INFORMATION THAN I CAN HANDLE ALL AT ONCE!!

BUT WE AREN'T RELATED BY BLOOD...SO I GUESS WE COULD GET MARRIED...

NGAAAH!! JUST THE THOUGHT OF IT IS SO CONFUSING!!

WHAAAAAT?!

W-W-W-WAIT A SEC... WHAAAAAAT?!

W-WHAT DO I DO?! HOW DO I RESPOND TO THIS?!

YUI?!

BASICALLY... SHE'S CONFESSING HER FEELINGS TO ME?!

SO...I SHOULD RESPOND...

BUT... WHAT SHOULD I SAY?!

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES...? BUT I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF YUI THAT WAY.

I LOVE YUI... BUT AS A SISTER...

I'M TOUCHED THAT SHE HAS FEELINGS FOR ME...

BUT I HAVE FEELINGS FOR SOMEONE ELSE...

SO I CAN'T RETURN YUI'S FEELINGS.

I'M IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

RIGHT.

ACTUALLY, I...

I...I... Y-YUI...

ONODERA...

OOO

HUH...?

WHY DID I JUST SEE CHITOGE'S FACE?!

W-W-W-WHAT WAS THAT?!

NGH AAAAAA

W-WHY?!

?

W-WHY?!

THANK YOU, RYU!

DINNER WILL BE READY SOON!

WELCOME HOME, YUI!

WELL, WELL!

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING, STANDING AROUND TALKING?

TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU NEED TO THINK.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER RIGHT AWAY.

SORRY TO PUT YOU ON THE SPOT.

I'LL BE WAITING.

YUI'S FEELINGS WERE A REAL SURPRISE...

...BUT WHY DID CHITOGE'S FACE POP INTO MY MIND?

WHY...

WHAT...

...SHOULD I DO?

SHAKA

SHAKA

KA

...you like her, don't you?

Basic-ally...

POOF

...BUT WHAT SHOULD I SAY?

I HAVE TO GIVE YUI AN ANSWER...

...REALLY FEEL ABOUT YUI?

HOW DO I...

AND...

I REALLY NEED TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT THIS.

?

AND ONODERA ...

...CHITOGE...

...HOW I...

THAT'S...

THAT'S...

English

YUI...

...TO GIVE YOU AN ANSWER.

I CAME...

THANKS...

...

...THE WAY I SEE YOU...

...IS AS A SISTER.

TO ME...

BUT, THE THING IS...

WHEN YOU SAID YOU LOVED ME...

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED... AND GRATEFUL TOO.

IF POSSIBLE ...

...I HOPE YOU'LL CONTINUE TO BE MY BROTHER.

THANKS FOR ANSWERING ME.

I UNDER-STAND...

GOOD NIGHT.

GOOD.

YEAH...

OF COURSE.

...THE RIGHT THING?

DID I SAY...

DID I HURT HER AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE?

MAYBE I COULD'VE DONE BETTER.

HOW...

HOW DOES YÛI FEEL RIGHT NOW?

WHAT IF YUI...

...

I CAN IMAGINE...

IF I LIVED IN THE SAME HOUSE AS ONODERA...

I'D BE SO MORTIFIED... I'D WANT TO RUN AWAY...

IT WOULD BE REALLY HARD FOR ME TO FACE HER THE NEXT DAY.

...AND I TOLD HER HOW I FELT AND GOT REJECTED...

SLAP

JOLT

KA

SHOOP

PATTER PATTER PATTER

...WERE REAL.

...IF MY FEELINGS ...

YOU KNOW...

I ALWAYS WONDERED...

...IF I WAS JUST CLINGING TO YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE MY ONLY FAMILY, MY ONLY CONNECTION...

BUT I ALWAYS WON-DERED...

I...

...I'VE LOVED YOU FOR SO LONG.

BUT...

IT'S REALLY CLEAR TO ME NOW.

AND MAYBE I JUST MISTOOK THAT FEELING FOR LOVE...

LIKE A CHILD, DESPERATELY REACHING FOR THEIR PARENT AS THEY LEAVE...

BOTH ARE REAL.

NEITHER IS FALSE.

...AND MY LOVE FOR YOU AS FAMILY...

MY FEELINGS FOR YOU...

...ARE REAL.

BOTH FEELINGS...

I THINK...

...I CAN MOVE ON NOW.

BUT I THINK IT'S HELPED ME TO GROW UP.

ONE OF THEM ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE.

...?

YUI...

SO, RAKKY...

JUST ONE LAST THING...

WHOOSH

TUG

RAKKY...

SO LONG...

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SO LONG, RAKKY.

THANKS FOR EVERY-THING.

GASP!

YUI...?!

JOLT!!

WAIT A SEC...

NO... SHE COULDN'T HAVE MEANT...

IT WAS ALMOST LIKE...SHE WAS SAYING GOODBYE...

STILL... WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

DON'T TELL ME...!

"IF I TOLD ONODERA HOW I FELT AND GOT REJECTED ...

"I'D BE SO MORTIFIED... I'D WANT TO RUN AWAY..."

OH!

SHOOP!

NO!

YUI!!

GRAB

NO!!

THIS ISN'T HAPPEN-ING!!

...

TAK TAK TAK TAK

IT'S TRUE THAT I DON'T FEEL THE SAME WAY, SHE DOES...

BUT I...

SHE CAN'T JUST LEAVE!

SHOOP

SHOOP

I STILL REALLY...

BIG SIS YUU!!!

CHIRP

CHIRP

WHY, HELLO!

CHIRP

GOOD MORNING, RAKKY!

WHAAAAAAAAAA

YOU STARTLED ME!!

AAAA?

YOU'RE HERE?!

CHIRP

CHIRP

THANKS, LITTLE BRO! ♡

SO YOU WERE WORRIED?

ARGH...

TEE HEE!

MORTIFIED

ZATSUMATA

HA HA HA! YOU THOUGHT I LEFT?

I'M A TEACHER! I CAN'T JUST DISAPPEAR WITHOUT ANY WARNING!

RIGHT... STILL ...

I'VE DEPENDED ON YOU FOR TOO LONG ALREADY, RAKKY!

I KNEW THAT I WOULD LEAVE AFTER I TOLD YOU HOW I FELT.

I'D ALREADY ...

...MADE UP MY MIND.

I WON'T GROW IF I KEEP USING YOU AS A CRUTCH.

SO I RENTED AN APARTMENT. I'VE ALREADY MOVED MOST OF MY STUFF.

I PRETTY MUCH KNEW WHAT YOU'D SAY ANYWAY.

I'D LOVE TO!

RIGHT!

WE'RE BROTHER AND SISTER, RIGHT?

AFTER ALL...

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT OR ANYTHING, SO DON'T FEEL BAD.

FEEL FREE TO COME BY MY NEW PLACE AND HANG OUT ANYTIME.

?

BY THE WAY...

HAVE YOU MADE UP YOUR MIND YET?

WHA ...?!

I...I...

I PROMISED TO TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO WHEN YOU DECIDE WHO YOU CARE ABOUT THE MOST!

TEE HEE... A PROMISE IS A PROMISE!

BLRFF!

ABOUT WHO YOU CARE ABOUT THE MOST! ♡

ANYWAY...

HURRY UP OR YOU'LL BE LATE!

...WASN'T ME.

YOUR PROMISE GIRL...

WHEN YOU FIGURE IT OUT, COME FIND ME!

OH, AND...

...ONE MORE THING....

WHEN I FIGURE IT OUT?

WAIT... DOES SHE KNOW I LIKE ONODERA ?!

SHE SAYS HEAVY STUFF LIKE IT'S NOTHING!

YUI SURE IS SOME-THING!

BUT I...

SHE MOVES RIGHT ON AHEAD.

YUI SURE IS AMAZING.

I STILL...

...OWE SOMEONE AN ANSWER.

SO...

ZZZ

TOK TOK

...?

WAVE WAVE

I'VE BEEN REJECTED!

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT!

BLUSH BLUSH

WHRR WHRR

WHRR

OH... NEVER MIND THAT...

BESIDES... THIS WAS A SPECIAL SITUATION... THE WHOLE MARRIAGE THING AND ALL...

YOU DON'T OWE ME ANY APOLOGY ...

STILL, I'M SORRY.

WHAAAT?!

ANYWAY, I'M SORRY, CHITOGE!

I TOLD YOU THE OTHER DAY I DIDN'T WANT TO COMPETE WITH YOU...

ANYWAY ...

I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, CHITOGE.

GOOD LUCK, CHITOGE!

I'M ROOTING FOR YOU!

IT'S TIME FOR ME TO LET GO. BUT YOU STILL HAVE A VERY GOOD CHANCE.

WELL, I'D BETTER GO.

TOMOR-ROW'S MY SEIJINSHIKI.* I GOTTA GET READY.

THOUGH I DON'T KNOW ANYONE ELSE THERE, SO IT'LL BE A LITTLE LONELY.

*CEREMONY TO CELEBRATE REACHING THE AGE OF ADULTHOOD

YUI!!

YUI...

I...

I CAN REALLY TELL HOW MUCH YUI CARES FOR RAKU.

AND FOR ME TOO.

I REALLY ...

...WANT TO SHARE MORE THINGS WITH YOU!!

HERE...

THIS IS MY NUMBER!

I...I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU MORE!

I...I NEVER TOLD YOU BEFORE, BUT...

GLADLY!

SURE!

Congratulat...

MISS KANAKURA ...!

ER, EXCUSE ME...

YOU MOVED TO CHINA IN FOURTH GRADE, RIGHT?

YOU'RE YUI KANAKURA OF HONNORI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RIGHT?

?

OH...!! I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU, YUI!!

YOUR NAME'S PRETTY UNIQUE, SO I THOUGHT IT HAD TO BE YOU!!

AKKY?

YES!!

IT IS YOU, YUI! WOW, THIS IS AWESOME!

YOU CAME BACK TO JAPAN?!

I'M SHIRONO... WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS!

REMEMBER ME?

AKIRA SHI-RONO!

HEY!

WE'RE HAVING A REUNION PRETTY SOON WITH SOME OTHER FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL! WANT TO COME?

IT WOULD BE GREAT TO CATCH UP!!

WOW, THIS IS GREAT! I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN!!

YOU WERE A REALLY GOOD FRIEND TO ME BACK THEN!!

I STILL HAVE A GOOD LUCK CHARM YOU GAVE ME BACK THEN, YUI-YUI.

YOU WERE TOTALLY HER FIRST CRUSH!

It's in my desk.

SHUT UP!!

SURE!

WOW...

I DIDN'T REALIZE...

...I HAD MORE CONNECTIONS HERE...

KA-TUNK

BLACK coffee

WE MADE AN AGREEMENT: ONE WEEK.

TOMOR-ROW'S THE LAST DAY.

PHEW

WELL...

...

SUITOR?

...

WHERE DO I MEET THE SUITOR?

I REALIZE THAT.

I WON'T RUN AWAY ANYMORE.

AH, THAT. I MADE EVERY-THING UP.

W... W... WHY...

Y-Y-YOU... MADE IT UP?!

NO MARRIAGE PROPOSAL.

WHAT ?!

THERE ARE MEN WHO WISH TO MARRY YOU.

BUT NONE WHO MEET MY STANDARDS FOR YOU.

...TO LIGHT A FIRE UNDER YOU!

I HAD TO DO IT...

SO I FORCED THE ISSUE A BIT.

I WANTED YOU TO SETTLE IT ONCE AND FOR ALL.

YOU'RE CARRYING A TORCH ON AND ON FOR A GUY WHO DOESN'T RETURN YOUR FEELINGS...

YOU DESERVE COMMENDATION. JUST A LITTLE BIT.

I AM SATISFIED WITH THE RESULT.

BUT YOU LIVED UP TO MY EXPECTATIONS.

I REALLY WOULD HAVE TAKEN YOU BACK TO CHINA IF YOU HADN'T DONE ANYTHING.

NOT YET.

NO.

I NEED A BIT MORE TIME.

I...

ONCE YOU MEET THEM, MAYBE YOU'LL...

...I COULD INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME SUITORS SOON.

BUT IF YOU'RE READY...

OH, UH...

I REALLY, UH...

FOR MY OWN SAKE, AND NO ONE ELSE'S!

...WITH SOMEONE WHO LOVES ME BACK.

I WANT TO CHOOSE ON MY OWN.

TO FALL IN LOVE...

GIVEN YOUR JOB AND MY DUTY...

...THAT IS COMPLETELY OUT OF THE QUESTION!

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE...

CAN YOU ACCEPT THAT?

...

GOOD POINT.

...TO GIVE ME THE ORDER.

WHATEVER YOU WISH, YOU ONLY NEED...

BUT YOU ARE THE DON OF THE CHAR SUI KAI.

AND I AM HERE TO SERVE YOU.

TAK

夜我命令你

(I HEREBY ORDER IT, NIGHT!)

請相信我…等我哦

(TRUST ME, AND GIVE ME TIME!)

…我明白了

(ORDER UNDER-STOOD...)

首領羽…

(...DON YUI.)

Volume 20--Order/END

☆ Bonus Comic!! ☆

Eek... Why this?

Quit complaining and let's do this!!

B-BMP B-BMP

The Magical Girls have a new tool to battle evil with...

Magical Confectioner Kosaki!!

Hyaaah!!

VOOSH

Now we can do battle!!

ZOT ZOT ZOT

You're right!

Wow! It overpowers the Anti-Magic Beam!

The Impenetrable Magic Barrier!!

Ha! My ultimate weapon!

That's why I've never been captured!!

With this, I'm invincible!!

It's way more powerful than the Anti-Magic Beam!

Muahahahaha

Noooo!

VVV

Evil

?!!

AH

WAAAAA

Huh?

Sheesh. Well, you leave me with no choice...

TMP

Rurin ...?!

FOOF!

I haven't seen you take this form in years...

Ah- ha.

Even your ability to blast away solar systems can't put a dent in my Anti-Magic Barrier...

I designed it specifically to withstand your powers!!

Nonetheless, even your powers cannot penetrate my Barrier!

At long last, you've decided to get serious?

Illustrious Sage Rurin of the Magical World...

FWFF

WHAM

Evil

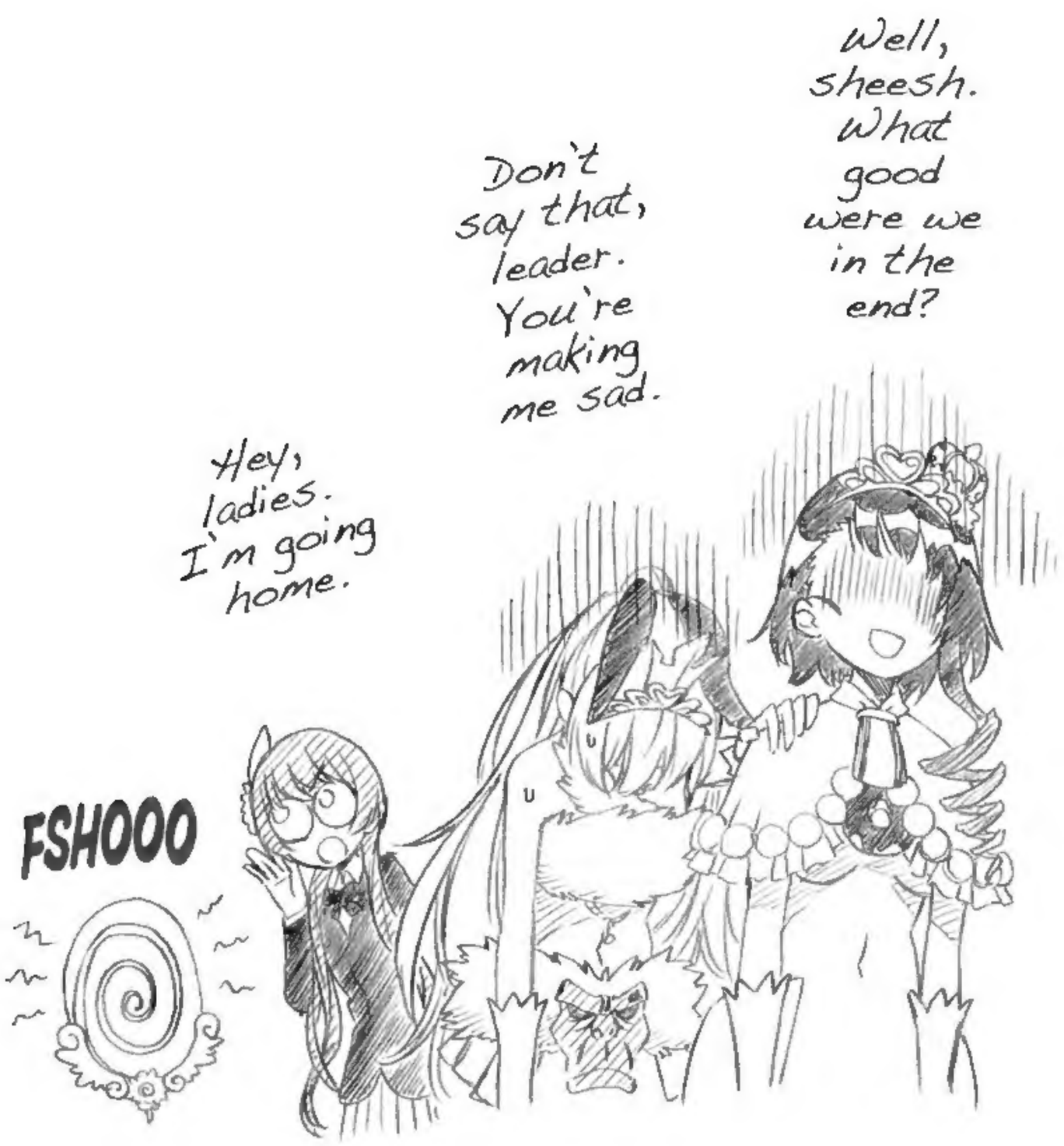
SOB...

OH !!!!

whaaaaaaaaat?!

It's over.

To be continued!! One final chapter!!


Well, sheesh. What good were we in the end?
Don't say that, leader. You're making me sad.
Hey, ladies. I'm going home.
FSHOOO

NISEKOI

False Love